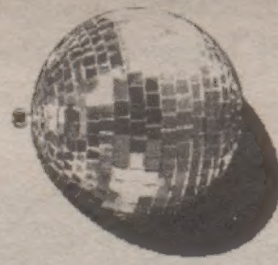


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February 1998, Vol. 5 Number 5

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Vol. 5 Number 5

February '98

Edmonton, Alberta

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Times .10 Magazine
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Times .10 Publications Non-Profit Society

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FYI: News & Notes from the HIV/AIDS Battlefront

"Protease Inhibitors Vindicated" Lancet—End of Year Review

With the emergence of drug combinations containing strong protease inhibitors, 1997 has been a good year for HIV therapy, writes Paul A. Volberding of the University of California at San Francisco's AIDS program in the Lancet's End of Year Review. In fact, reports Volberding, the addition of a protease inhibitor to a two-drug regimen now reduces mortality by 60 percent. Central to these gains, he adds, is the availability of extremely sensitive assays for plasma HIV RNA, which can detect 500 copies/ml. The new drug combinations, meanwhile, are capable of suppressing HIV to the undetectable range of tests. Still, resistance to these drug treatments remains difficult to predict, manage, or detect. What is known, however, is that resistance is best prevented by intense antiretroviral therapies with protease inhibitors.

"Medics Say Number of HIV-Infected Steadily Up in [Russia]" Itar Wire Service

According to official figures from the Russian Health Ministry, the number of HIV-positive Russians has topped 7,000, but experts argue the real number may be 10 times higher. Experts attribute the alarming trend to an increasing incidence of drug addiction, especially among younger populations. Vadim Pokrovsky, head of the country's anti-AIDS center, estimates that treatments for one HIV-positive individual cost the state \$20,000 annually. Pokrovsky believes a key to the epidemic lies in prevention, particularly public education.

"AIDS Warnings Unheeded by Many Young People" Washington Post—Health

An MTV/Yale University study released last month indicates that 87 percent of young people surveyed do not believe they are at risk for HIV infection. The study—conducted among 770 people aged 12 to 34—also found that while 90 percent of the respondents said they had not engaged in any risky behaviors, 53 percent of the single respondents said they did not use a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse. Furthermore, more than one-fifth of the young people reported knowing someone who had died of AIDS, but more than 50 percent could not identify a behavior that would put them at risk for HIV infection. The youths also said they did not think the media sufficiently provided them with information on health issues such as AIDS, the dangers of unprotected sex, and pregnancy prevention.

"Rural Communities Struggle With AIDS" Journal of the American Medical Association

Recent antiretroviral drug treatments and the changing demographics of the AIDS epidemic have raised concerns about the ability of rural health care professionals to keep pace with information on the disease and, thus,

to adequately care for and inform patients. In some rural areas of Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina, women make up 25 percent of all reported AIDS cases—well above the national average—yet these areas typically do not take measures to offer women education about the virus or testing. As part of efforts to determine the ways that rural communities serve women with HIV, the Health Resources and Services Administration commissioned



health care consultant Martha McKinney to study five rural clinics that offer HIV-related care in Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, and Washington. McKinney found that all of the clinics offered general information on HIV, but only two made efforts to specifically target women. McKinney also identified several barriers that keep women living in rural areas from receiving HIV testing, including the fact that many of these women do not believe they are at risk even if they engage in high-risk behaviors. Dr. Petra Liljestrand of San Francisco General Hospital's Community Provider AIDS Training Project.

"Cuban HIV Infection Increased in 1997" Reuters

By year-end 1997, the number of people infected with HIV in Cuba had risen about 60 percent compared to 1996 levels, to 1,800. Cuban health officials note that an accumulated total of 666 people have been diagnosed with AIDS; of that group, 478 have died. The experts noted that the Communist-ruled nation's rate of infection was lower than the rate in other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean but said the low rate was itself problematic because many young people do not consider HIV a real threat. Also of concern was the growing number of tourists in Cuba who appear to be visiting the island, in part, for sex.

"First Human Tests set for an AIDS Vaccine" Washington Times

VaxGen Inc., a small California biotechnology firm, has won U.S. federal support for a three-year AIDS vaccine study involving 7,500 healthy human volunteers. The study is the first phase III test to determine the efficacy of the vaccine, which is based on the gp120 protein and has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Nearly 5,000 volunteers will be from the United States, while another 2,500 will be from Thailand. Half of the volunteers—most of whom are considered at high risk of contracting HIV—will receive the vaccine, while the other half will receive placebos. If the study were successful, the vaccine would be available in the early part of the next century. However, Jose Zuniga, deputy director of the International Association for Physicians in AIDS Care warns: "The vaccine is not the end of the road. It is the beginning."

"China Aims to Limit HIV Cases to 1.5 Million by 2010" Reuters

As part of efforts to halt the emerging HIV

epidemic in China, the Asian giant announced Saturday that it has sent 100 proposals to 40 foreign embassies and international organizations requesting funds for HIV prevention efforts in the country. While the official Xinhua news agency did not report how much funding China hopes to raise, it did note that the proposals included efforts such as launching an HIV/AIDS information Web site, promoting the use of condoms among high-risk groups, and publishing textbooks on sex and AIDS. Official figures released by the national health ministry indicate that China had 8,303 HIV cases as of October 1997, and that the spread of HIV has hit a period of rapid growth.

"New Chlamydia Tests More Sensitive, Require Less Staff Time" Reuters Health Services

According to a report published in the January issue of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, two new molecular amplification systems—Roche Diagnostic Systems' Cobas Amplicor and Abbott Laboratories' LCx—are more sensitive and require less technician time than first generation Chlamydia detection devices. Dr. Olafur Steingimsson and associates at the University of Iceland found the Cobas Amplicor to have 100 percent sensitivity, while the Amplicor MWP assay showed 92.9 percent sensitivity and the LCx measured 83.3 percent sensitivity to cervical swab samples from 98 women and first-void urine samples from 204 men attending an STD clinic.

"U.S. Scientists Report Third Gene Resists AIDS" Reuters

Stephen O'Brien—who leads AIDS genetics research at the National Cancer Institute—and colleagues report in the journal Science that they have found a third genetic mutation that offers people some resistance to AIDS. The mutation

concerns the gene controlling production of the SDF1 protein, used for communication between immune cells; only about 5 percent of the population carries the two copies of the mutation required for protection. The researchers, who studied the genetic makeup of 2,800 participants in AIDS trials, found that patients who had two copies of the mutation and who were HIV-positive developed AIDS seven to 10 years later than average. They noted that SDF1 prevalence could explain why HIV remains in the immune system for so long before it causes AIDS, and say the information could lead to the development of new AIDS drugs.

"HIV Testing May Deter Some from Testing" New York Times

In a letter to the editor of the New York Times, Catherine Hanssens, AIDS project director for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, notes that—according to surveys by AIDS service providers—mandatory name reporting deters testing, especially among gay and bisexual men and racial minority groups. Hanssens was responding to a Jan. 13 article and a Jan. 15 editorial concerning a proposal to require the registration of all HIV-positive New Yorkers with the State Health Department. She asserts that "legal protections are unreliable," citing a recent case in Virginia in which a federal court held that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not protect asymptomatic HIV-infected individuals.

THE FRONT PAGE

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Horoscopes by David Michael

Astrology based solely on sun signs, is doomed to generalities and can never fit very well. However many find it fun. For those of you who know your moon sign, and ascendant, I suggest reading all three of these below to get a more accurate picture of your month. An accurate personal horoscope can be obtained for free by sending your Date, Time, and Place of birth to David Michael at Times.10 publications.



Aries

Early February continues the group focus of January, encouraging you to take an active role in team projects. Philosophical differences lead to clashes on the fourth. Energy is highly taxed & you could find yourself feeling like your giving much more than your getting. The full moon highlights creative projects and future goals. If the last third of the month finds you exhausted, try to take time alone for rest. Sacrifices at this time will lead to rewards later.



Taurus

Emphasis is on recognition for you in Feb. Career or public standing could get a boost. The first week finds you continuing January's inner evaluation of some philosophical issue. Purchases made on impulse at the start of the month have cause for regret later, so wait a few days. Full moon highlights issues of security and image. Spending time to set goals is suggested for late month. This would also be a good time to involve yourself with others on some project of altruistic value.



Gemini

Expanding your horizons in February through travel, study, or wider

social exposure can lead to more acclaim in career or public image by late month. Communication of all sorts is featured for the first half of the month, but more for your gaining information than your giving it. Good potential for new beginnings in career path during the last few days of the month. Ask for that promotion.



Cancer

Be very hesitant of expanding your debt load in the first half of Feb. This is a period to consolidate and reduce both financial and emotional debt. The second week of February finds you needing to assess your worth, take stock, and evaluate what you have to work with. Late in the month growth is featured, through study or exposure to new ideas. Potential is high at month's end to initiate new expansive endeavours, or to take a journey.



Leo

Romance & partnership of all sorts are highly favoured for you this month. Creativity runs high, especially in the second week. For those who get involved during this period, the end of the month brings the task of reassessing how your values mesh and clash with the other's. Regardless, late February demands that Leo spends some time cleaning out their closets, discarding what is no longer of use and polishing forgotten items. Passion runs highest on the 26th.



Virgo

February begins with your energy focused even more than usual on the myriad tasks that demand your attention, and life is busy. Your focus is on self improvement. Take some time in the middle of the second week to rest and rejuvenate your batteries to avoid overtaxing yourself and moving into complaint mode. Late month focuses you on partnerships & for you singles, the 26th is wonderfully portentous for linking up with someone

very special.



Libra

Artistic temperament is high as February dawns, and could be wanting to express itself at home, redecorating or buying things to express your personality there. Caution is urged on impulse buying in the first week. Until the third week, your focus is generally upon creative self-expression and here you will attract attention. In the last third of the month, you'll find work and routine seem to weigh more heavily. Watch your health regime during this phase to avoid unnecessary illness.



Scorpio

Security is your focus as February starts, and many of you will be desiring a new home. Caution is urged against impulsively spending on frivolous things in the first week. Public image or career gets a boost with the full moon. After the 20th, your energy for self expressive play and fun is higher than ever and you can easily take the limelight wherever you are. Overspending on play will catch up to you in March, so do use a little restraint.



Sagittarius

Opportunity for expansion presents itself in a communiqué on the 11th. Although communication is the general focus for the first three weeks of February, this month also marks the beginning of about a year's focus on home and security. The urge to move will mount throughout, but many of you will be inclined to do so before February ends. The 26th is a great time to sign new leases. More than for most others, I'd advise against impulse spending on things that attract you in the first week of the month.



Capricorn

Finances tend to need attention for the first half of the month. Taking stock now of all your resources, both physical and otherwise, will prove by April to have been of benefit. After the 20th of February, things lighten up a bit and bring you more social options. Communication is a key for you at this time, so try not to be your usual taciturn self, but open up and let issues come into the open. Security restructuring of the past year continues throughout 1998.



Aquarius

Sun in your sign as February starts, highlights personal growth and new starts. Much activity here for the next few years indicates the preparations of the last six years are complete and you're ready to move forward with altruistic goals. Team effort is the only way, you now know, and as leader, you have a great responsibility. Your communication style still needs work this year. February shows increase in finances and attendant increase in attention this area demands. Look for willing partner around the 11th, and for new financial sources on the 26th.



Pisces

February is a harsh month, but fortunately it is short. For the first three weeks, things seem to be taken from you, but after the 20th, the situation improves. Personal growth is strong for you this year and new projects begun in late month have strong potential for success. You are moving into an action phase and the preparations made over the last year will now begin to prove to have been worth

People Needed

The gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community is receiving an increased demand to provide speakers for public speaking engagements. As such, the GLBT community immediately requires persons who are interested in speaking on GLBT issues and concerns.

Speakers will be requested to deliver presentations on issues that they have some experience, knowledge and/or skill. Opportunities to partake in speaking engagements will vary, depending on the topic being presented and the speakers interests and availability. After an intense 6-hour training session, speakers may be required to commit an average of 2-4 hours per month.

Training will provided prior to participating in speaking engagements. Gay positive family members, friends and other interested persons are most welcomed and encouraged to register in the training.

For more information or to register for the public speaking training call the Speakers Bureau at 488-3234 or e-mail: glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

To the Managing Editor of Times.10 Magazine,

Dear Dennis,

I am writing to thank you on behalf of myself and the members of the Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton. Also, for all the families whose Christmas celebrations your generosity helped to brighten.

We are a small church with big hearts and because of your kind donation this year we were able to deliver Christmas Dinner hampers to 64 different households. There were 158 people in these families. Some families were as large as eight and others as small as one person.

All were given turkey, with stuffing, or a ham, vegetables, potatoes, dinner buns, Christmas oranges, cake or cookies. We put in enough so that each family had more than enough food for maybe two or three meals.

Each child receive a gift and some candy. Every adult and child received personal products, i.e., soap, shampoo, etc. We were even given some bath oils, colognes and lotions, which were passed on to the teenagers on our list.

We hope next year we can all rise to the challenge again. I would like to thank you for the efforts you made in raising awareness about the hampers in Times.10. The donation of time, effort and finances were greatly appreciated. It enabled us to provide many hampers. Perhaps you could make known the final results of all our efforts in the next Times.10 so that those you inspired may know the fruit of their generosity.

Thank you for your generosity and have a blessed, peaceful New Year.
In God's love,
Reverend Beverly Baptiste

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Capital City Politics



From the Minister of Justice

**Anne McLellan,
M.P. – Edmonton
West**

As we embark on a New Year, I am very pleased to have this opportunity to share with you some of my thoughts on our Government's actions to curb hate crimes and to extend protection to the many diverse groups that make up our federation.

The steps the Government has taken to address hate crimes in Canada were very important, not just in substance, but symbolically. Our actions sent a message that violence is something we as a society condemn. Like most other western democracies in recent years, this country has been faced with an increase in hate crimes as an offence. Every identifiable minority group in Canada reports a significant and troubling rise in incidents of hate-motivated violence, and there are more than 40 documented organized hate groups in Canada. Police bias-crimes units in both Ottawa and Toronto report a steady increase in hate-motivated offences, and note that hate crimes based on sexual orientation are among the largest categories of hate-related offences.

Canadians have made it clear that we will not tolerate hate-motivated violence. Our Government, in its 1993 Red Book, made a commitment to protect the right of Canadians to personal security, particularly those who, by virtue of gender, race, religion, age or sexual orientation, are more likely to be targets of violent crime.

We acted swiftly upon that commitment in 1994 with the introduction of bill C-41. The bill contained significant amendments to the sentencing provisions of the Criminal Code, including a provision that encourages harsher sentences for those convicted of

crimes motivated by hate, based on the race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, or sexual orientation of the victim.

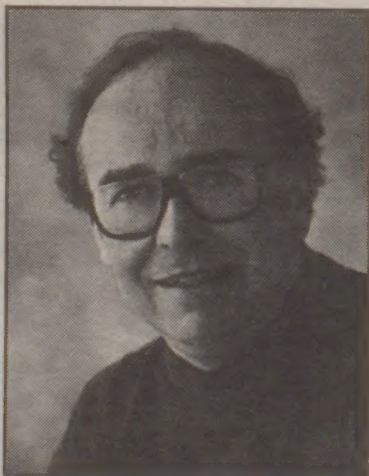
The Government moved quickly to introduce this legislation because it is an important component to our efforts to address violent crime and improve the safety of all Canadians. The bill was tangible recognition that the effect of hate-motivated crimes can be devastating, not only for the individual victim but for society as a whole, since its clear and intended purpose is to make all members of a target group feel vulnerable and afraid. Bill C-41 represented an important opportunity for Canadians to recognize and re-affirm a fundamental societal value: that hate, not only toward an individual but, toward whole groups in society, must be firmly and collectively condemned.

It's true that our hate-crimes provisions of Bill C-41 did meet with some opposition. Some critics charged that it would confer special status on some groups. These criticisms, however, are without foundation. Bill C-41's scope was clearly limited to sentencing issues in the criminal law—it is simply a law to ensure greater protection for those groups who, sadly, are too often targets of crime.

The bill also received wide support from many organizations across the country, including gay and lesbian organizations, the Canadian Bar Association, the United Church of Canada, police representatives, B'Nai Brith, the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and many multicultural organizations. Their support was much appreciated by our Government.

Bill C-41, now Chapter 22 of the Statutes of Canada, 1995, became law on September 3, 1996. In that same year, the Government also followed through on another Red Book commitment by passing legislation amending the Canadian Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

These are, I believe, important steps forward in this Government's ongoing commitment to encourage an inclusive and generous society that respects the human rights of all Canadians. My commitment to you as Minister of Justice is to build on the progress we have made together as Canadians to create a safe society and one respectful of the equal rights we all expect.



A BLUSTERY NEW YEAR!

by Councillor Michael Phair

Maybe it was an omen that New Year's arrived

in Churchill Square amidst a cold, blustery, snowy night! After two months of the warm, sunny El Nino 1998 came roaring in and it certainly has been chilly for lesbians and gays in Edmonton.

When the media called me for comments in early January about *Down Under* I thought they were doing a travel story on Australia! Having been part of, and spectator to, the two-week media circus on the opening of a 'bathhouse'—gay no less—I want to write about some of my observations. I do this even though I am anxious to not prolong the feeding frenzy on such a silly and minor issue: the opening of a new business.

If you followed the newspapers you will note strikingly different coverage from the two. The Sun, at least this is how I see it, led off with a bang and did as much as they could to whip up hysteria and I would suggest hatred. I also think that it was meant to titillate and excite readers—"oh, what naughty things do gay men do in these places!" After the first couple of days, the coverage quickly changed to put me in the middle of this issue and as I predicted to a number of people that on the January 10/11 weekend the Sun would run an article directly attacking me. As predicted, the Sun tried to undermine my credibility as an elected official on January 10 and have since been quiet even though the issue continued to be reported by other media during the next week.

It is tempting to conclude that things have not changed in Edmonton and that intolerance, bigotry and hatred dominate the treatment of lesbians and gay men. In fact, I think that Edmonton has changed dramatically over the past 15 years in the following ways:

- a review of comments from city elected officials said virtually nothing more than that this was a business that fit the criteria and therefore was no business of Council—no hysterical comments, no 'the world is ending' pronouncements, just factual information. Both Councillor Jim Taylor and I have taken the lead with few comments from the Mayor and silence from most others. I can assure you if you were to think back 10 or 15 years ago, the comments from City Council would have been very different.
- the official response from the police indicated that Edmonton was a major city and such establishments were common and were only of concern to the police if they violated regulations or laws. Can you imagine such a response 15 years ago?
- the many and strong initiatives from members of the lesbian and gay business community that I have witnessed have been remarkable! One of the owners of the bathhouse personally distributed a letter to adjoining businesses outlying *Down Under* and providing a phone number to call if they had concerns or problems. Additionally, letters were delivered to the Condo Associations in the vicinity

indicating a willingness to meet if so desired. (Both Councillor Taylor and I wrote similar letters to the Condo Associations.) A number of other gay owned or operated businesses in the area also called City Hall and the local business association expressing their support for this new business. I am sure that 15 years ago no one would have admitted to being an owner of a bathhouse or lesbian/gay business much less speak up and exert his or her influence.

So the New Year has started much differently than I expected. The cold, blustery rhetoric on gay bathhouses has forced many of us to action—don't let it fool you. We are here, stronger and better than ever!

Michael Phair
Councillor, Ward 4

If you have questions about the city or opinions on issues, contact Councillor Phair's Office. (496-8146 phone 496-8133 fax mphaire@gov.edmonton.ab.ca e-mail)

Postscript 1. October of this year are elections for City Council. Suggestions are welcome.

Postscript 2. February 21 at 11 p.m. the Johnny and Poki show at the Varscona Theatre (83 Ave and 104 St.) will do a benefit show for me sponsored by Friends 4 Phair. Mark the date!



Keep the Fires Going

By Laurie Blakeman
MLA - Edmonton - Centre

Good News folks! We are finally going to have another sitting of the Legislature! We are scheduled to be back in the House on January 27 for the Second Session of the 24th Legislature and hopefully we will stay in for a long time.

I am sponsoring Bill 229, Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Amendment Act, 1998. Specifically, this bill proposes to include sexual orientation under the areas that prohibit discrimination. I join an impressive list of people who have brought forward similar legislation in the past: Sheldon Chumir, Marie Laing, Bettie Hewes and Gary Dickson.

The Individual Rights Protection Act (IRPA) was replaced by the Human Rights and Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act in July 1996. The act still protects from discrimination on the grounds of race, religious belief, colour, gender, physical disability, mental disability, age, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income and family status. At the same time, this new act changed the name of the Human Rights Commission and amended some of its powers.

Bill 229 would add sexual orientation to the list of prohibited grounds for discrimination. Inclusion of sexual orientation would impact on a number of areas which are detailed under the existing act including:

- prohibiting any publication, notice, sign etc. that would indicate discrimination;
- denying accommodation, services or facilities;
- excluding gays or lesbians from membership in trade unions, employer's organizations or occupational associations;
- refusing employment or conditions of employment.

I believe that it is only a matter of time before Alberta passes this legislation. All other provinces and the federal government have either already changed legislation or have agreed to read it into legislation. In other words, they interpret legislation as though it were there. The outcome of the Supreme Court's decision on Delwin Vriend will also likely put Alberta in a position where it will have to change the legislation.

I am very proud to be sponsoring this bill. It is long overdue. Let's hope we stay in session long enough to see it introduced, debated and passed! A copy of Bill 229 is available by calling my office at 414-0743. If you are out of town please use the RITE line for toll free calling 310-0000.

I am always on the lookout for new issues, developing concerns or questions, especially when we're in session, so please keep my number handy and don't hesitate to call. If you'd like to speak with me on this issue, or any others, please call me at the constituency office at 414-0743 or drop by 10042-116 Street, Edmonton, AB. T5K 1V6. Email blakeman@oanet.com. For a toll free call from outside Edmonton, use the RITE line 310-0000, then dial the office number. During session, you can also reach me through the Liberal Caucus office at 427-2292.



Old Money, New Money, No Money Down

How the Recent Funding Announcements add Up to Nothing for Albertans

By Pam Barrett - MLA -
Edmonton - ND Leader

\$260 million for infrastructure. \$380 million for Education. \$106 million for Health. \$95 million for Advanced Education. \$70 million for Social Services.

What a huge chunk of cash, eh? Should fix up all that's wrong in Alberta. At least that is what the Klein government wants you to think.

Now get the REAL picture. For the most part, the numbers are fabrications. Some of them had been announced before. All of it is spread over three years. None of it will actually improve the quality of services Albertans receive.

Klein and Stockwell Day obviously require a quick lesson in basic economics. Lesson number one: increases in the cost of living (inflation) shorten the distance a dollar goes. We all know that when we compare our paycheque to our grocery bill.

Lesson two: Alberta's population is growing, meaning more students, more children, and more people needing health care and social services. Lesson three: \$10 plus three press releases bragging about the \$10 adds up to \$10. Not \$30. Half the extra funding for Health had been announced previously. \$9 million of it has been announced three times. The \$260 million for infrastructure had been announced before. No new money there.

So, how much got put back into essential services for Albertans?

Well, in 1992 government funding for Education was \$1,161 per person (in 1997 dollars). In 1997, before the announcements, it was \$970 per person (a drop of 16%). In 2001, after the three years of extra funding, it will be \$971. That is an increase of \$1 per person after three years.

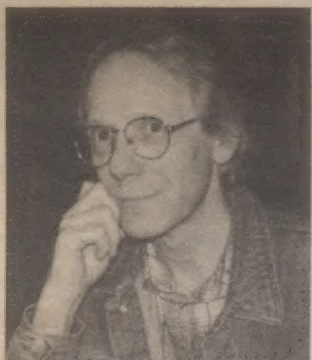
In the other departments it is worse. In Health, funding will drop from \$1,668 in 1992 to \$1,258 in 2001 (a total drop of 25%). Social Services will have seen a 36% drop by 2001.

In short, it is a shell game, designed to trick Albertans into thinking that the government is addressing problems in our people programs. In reality, the funding announcements do not even cover the increases in cost of living and population growth.

So don't be fooled.

It is only when class sizes return to responsible levels and when patients no longer wait three days in a hallway before getting a hospital bed that Albertans should say the problems are fixed. Until then we need to keep pushing.

And I'll keep giving Klein and Day economics lessons.



Dear Diary ...what a day it's been!

Many thanks to the people who made this issue of Times 10 happen. Without you over the past five and a half years things would have been a lot different. You have taken the time and care needed to make this publication yours by volunteering thousands

From the Editor

by Dennis Cambly

of hours over the years. It leaves one with a true feeling of humility to be the managing editor of your magazine. After all these years we finally received some feedback from one of the boneheads that have made life difficult for the gay and lesbian community here in Alberta. **Then again, what is a publication if it does not print both sides of the story?**

The writer, much to his dismay, has discovered that we do not just make up the stories that we print. We do a lot of research and for that we find people who are willing to have their real names printed and published without hesitation. Alas, it cannot be said for those who have done so much damage to the human spirit here in Alberta. They covertly hide themselves behind undressed envelopes and leave us with no way of contacting them for verification. It was our choice to print the "hate mail" letter in its complete form so that you the reader can view the poison that these individuals carry around in their hearts and minds. The original letter is on file with what we believe to be a fictitious name. We therefore did not print the name, as we could not verify it.

You will also notice a full-page ad regarding "gay bashing". Our thanks go to the police liaison committee and to McRobbie Grafix for the donation of their time and efforts. There is now a direct line to police services, which you will find under "groups and services". Under the Hate Crimes Law, which the Minister of Justice has written,

gay bashing is a crime.

It is time for us to do some of our own bashing and give the bastards a small taste of what they have been giving us for years. Let's look at one example: the mainstream media had no problem publishing the names of those apprehended (but not at the time charged), at both Pisces Spa and Victoria Park. However, when the debate erupted over whether the names of the johns picking up prostitutes be printed, they took the "high" road and refused to do so. Kind of twisted groups when it comes to being consistent with their editorial policies (if they have one). It is fine to gay bash, but let's go easy on the

slime that cruises for the young sixteen-year-old females down on the drag. They had best be advised that there is a Hate Crimes Law now in place for all of Canada, and that includes Alberta. They might have thought it cute to have relationships destroyed and suicides a pleasant thought due to their thoughtlessness, but the times have changed.

But, oh yes, the big but, before we are too critical of them let us take a good look at ourselves. Are you aware that there are hundreds of gay owned and operated businesses in the city of Edmonton? Where are they all you might ask so that you could support them? Well, it is this way you see, they are still well entrenched in the closet and would never let their name be mentioned in anything but the mainstream media. Rather hypocritical of them to support the very same people that are always bashing them over the head. **Well, that's life in the closet, what a drag!**

Svend Robinson & Bill Richardson To Address Upcoming Sexuality- Spirituality Conference

By
Heather Marshall
Associate Editor

Did you ever think it possible that we might be able to talk about Sexuality and Spirituality at the same time, or that the church would sponsor and support such a discussion? Well, it's going to happen. Not only is it happening, but also some big name speakers are going to help out with the conversation. On March 20 to 22, 1998 Svend Robinson and Bill Richardson (CBC) will be here for the weekend to engage with the rest of us in the topic of

Embracing Spirituality/Embracing Sexuality. Robinson and Richardson are just two features of the conference that will draw participants; organizers have planned nineteen workshops, a banquet and dance,

and a Sunday worship service. Looking at the conference schedule, there will be something for everyone, and no time to get bored!

Originally the brainchild of Bert and Evelyn Frey, a retired couple with years of experience in the United Church, the conference has captured the imagination of people across orientations, denominations and faiths. The informal, ad hoc planning committee is comprised largely of people from Christian backgrounds, but there are also those who claim no affiliation with any religious organization. The Frey's concern for the pain experienced by people of all orientations within faith community's crosses the bounds of institutionalized religion, and have set the tone for this conference.

The Frey's are people with a mission. "There is an incredible depth of ignorance [about homosexuality] in this province," quips Evelyn, quoting a friend. "This conference is just a beginning, but we want to do something about this." For this reason, the conference is open to all; gay, lesbian, transgendered, bisexual and straight people who seek to learn more and engage in constructive dialogue with people of other orientations. According to one organizer, the planning meetings have been a way for people to get connected with others with similar concerns, and that is a big part of the goal for this conference.

Svend Robinson, an outspoken advocate for gay/lesbian rights and federal MP will be a highlight of the conference. In his keynote address on Friday evening Robinson will talk about *Church and State: Love and Hate*, an appropriate title for an audience made up of many people who have been the object of much hatred from both institutions. Bill Richardson, CBC radio host and author of the popular Bachelor Brothers books and more recently, *Scorned and Beloved* (Knopf: 1997), will host the Saturday evening Variety Concert, as well as moderate a panel discussion on being gay or lesbian within the Christian church.

If you don't learn something from the workshops on the Saturday, it won't be due to lack of options. Covering everything from *The Bible and Homosexuality*, *Coming Out*, *Transgendered Nation*, *Bisexuality: Negotiating Duality*, *The Law and Politics*, *Youth in the Church*, *Homophobia in the Workplace*, *Parenting*, - the list goes on - organizers have attempted to find ways to meet as many needs and address as many topics as possible.

Despite the busy schedule, however, there will be time for fun. Saturday's Variety Concert line-up is impressive; Edmonton Vocal Minority, pianist Stephane Lemelin, Katie and Cathy, Jennifer Gibson and Cory Brewster (folk/western), Gordon Ritchie (harp), and the

Victoria Composite High School Players will entertain, followed by a Dance. So you can exercise your spirit and brain by day and your body by night!

One of the challenges for organizers has been to keep the spirituality theme alive throughout the planning. So many of the questions that need to be

addressed tend to be seen to relate more to sexuality than spirituality, says the chair of the planning committee. "But intimacy applies to sexuality *and* to spirituality. Our bodies - including our sexual selves - give us ways to be known and to know others and God." The purpose of the conference is to allow people to explore and celebrate their own spirituality as people created in God's image.

Back in the 1960's Evelyn Frey worked at the Oliver Mental Institute (now Alberta Hospital) and it was her job to 'interview' patients as they came in. It was there that she spent many hours talking to people who were diagnosed as 'sick', but who were in fact homosexual. Her compassionate spirit was outraged at the way they were treated.

Since those days, when police had the authority to look in hotel windows and arrest anyone engaged in homosexual activity, Evelyn Frey's commitment to justice for gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered people has translated into action. Both she and her husband Bert, then an ordained minister, were outspoken proponents of the United Church of Canada's motion to ordain gays and lesbians (which was passed in 1988), and they have recently been appointed by the United Church of Canada to help congregations through the process of becoming Affirming Congregations. For many of us who have been severely hurt by the institutional church, regardless of denomination, Bert and Evelyn Frey offer us an example of hope.

Turning to writer and activist Margaret Laurence for inspiration, Bert and Evelyn Frey say they are doing what Laurence, in an address called "If I had One Hour to Live", call for. "Do not despair. Act. Speak out," says Laurence. "This is what we are doing," says Bert Frey.

If you are interested in attending the conference, you can call 433-5034 for more information or to register. Or if you are online, e-mail: katharine.moore@ualberta. This really is a unique event, and for the sake of your spirit, try to catch it.



exuality
pirltuality

SPEAKING OF 'NORMAL'

By Liz Massiah, MSW, RSW
Clinical Social Worker

Last issue gave information on the stages of the change process and described how we move through pre- contemplation to contemplation, to action, to maintenance to termination.

In the real world, by the end of January many of our well intended New Year's Resolutions will have revealed us as really still being in the contemplation stage, that it was not quite time to move to the action stage and stay there. Most of us have to go back and forth several times before we let the action stage stick to us. Rather than beating ourselves for this, it's more helpful to remember that you can't fall off the wagon unless you have climbed on the wagon, even for just a moment. Sometimes the wagon is not what it seems, with lots of surprises. Our drinking buddies may be really boring when we are sober, safer sex may be more complex than "naked" sex (to use the words of Tom Edge to describe sex without a condom), only one piece of pie may just be a torture and so on. Being fiscally responsible creates a strong feeling of deprivation and so forth.

So what to do? Give up totally and throw up your hands and exclaim "Its no use, Dorothy, we will never get to Kansas?" Or start wondering just a smidgen about the times when you thought pleasantly about whatever the change is you are contemplating. And part of you inside seemed relaxed and interested in being that different way. Is there another part inside that knows more about the new way of being and can point it

out- one person created a lacrosse net in her mind, and gave it the job of catching all the moments when the change was feeling fine and friendly. Then, when she felt desolate and overpowered by the Wicked Witch of the West, the lacrosse net full of little noticings of almost and actual differences was there for her as a resource.

So how will you start collecting the tiny moments of change that are already happening but you are missing- did you think twice before having seconds at dinner, did you leave a few mouthfuls of beer in your glass, did you start counting sheep before losing your temper? Bet you hadn't noticed the changes already happening, had you?

And of course, this month one must address the bathhouse. Will you allow yourself to simply go to the new bathhouse and not beat yourself for it (bad pun, I could not resist). Or conversely, did you go because that is what gay men do, not because that is what felt good to you? Or did you go and listen to those internal signals and then decide what you wanted to do - it's ok to go and have safer sex, it's ok to go and not have any sex.

How does the bathhouse fit with your myths about being a gay man? Ever thought about your myths about being a gay man and how they influence you - perhaps that is a task for your lacrosse net (or whatever image works for you). Do those myths make you take up your space in a gently confident way, inside and out? Do they make you know your shame? Do they do some of each? Notice after a few days of noticing and then ponder if that is how you want to be influenced by those myths. Then start to wonder about what stage of change you are in with regards to each of those newly collected noticings and see where that takes you.

Comments, questions, requests for articles on certain topics are always welcome- call me at 910 3050.

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launch party

Saturday, February 14
8 pm

Join us LIVE ONLINE
for the launch of **Queers Online**,
the #1 source of information for
Canadian gays and lesbians.
With features, news, reviews,
horoscopes, games, cartoons,
erotica and more, it's the only site
you'll need for information and fun.

performances start at 9:30

Claudia's Cage
My Dear Heretic
DominAdella - the word diva

fashion show

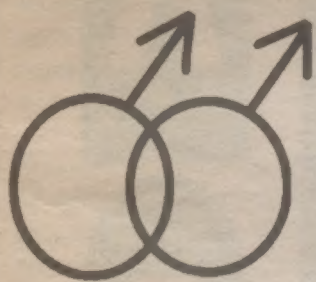
featuring the work of
Canadian designer Sue Seto

info

Lynda Scarrow 416-925-6665 ext. 282
webmaster@queersonline.com

Harold Smith

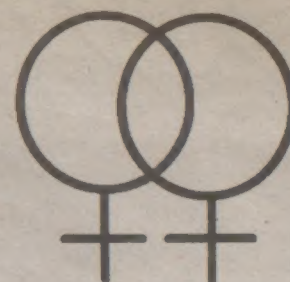
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Julie Lloyd

Same Sex Immigration

By Julie C. Lloyd

Many lesbians and gay men find themselves in relationships with partners who are not Canadian citizens. Long distance relationships can be incredibly expensive, and anyway, who wants to have their main squeeze thousands of miles away. Obtaining Canadian landed immigrant status and then citizenship for the foreign dumping is the only way to ensure that he or she will be able to stay indefinitely.

Independent persons can apply for landed immigrant status in Canada and will be granted such status if they possess enough of the personal assets that the Immigration Department deem to be of value to the country. Independent applications are evaluated on a point system, with applicants being granted points according to such criteria as their age, education, the language or languages they speak and their occupation. The Department is fairly choosy and it is difficult for people to qualify under this category.

The Immigration Act has long had a category under which applications by the spouses and children of citizens or landed immigrants can be granted. This category is called "Family Class" and applications under this class are more readily accepted, as they are not evaluated under the more rigorous "point system". Regrettably, the application of this Class is restricted to the children and the married, heterosexual spouses of Canadians and landed

immigrants.

The good news, however, is that while the Act does not recognize same sex relationships, the hard work of members of the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Task Force (LEGIT) over the past few years has given rise to a profound change in the practice of the Department.

In June of 1994, after considerable political and legal activism by LEGIT, Immigration Canada sent telex ORD 0150: Processing of same sex and common law cases, to program managers in embassies and consulates outside Canada, describing how to deal with applications involving same-sex relationships.

This telex directs that the non-Canadian partner of a Canadian citizen or permanent resident can make an independent application for permanent resident status asking that the application be granted on Humanitarian and Compassionate grounds, which grounds are to include consideration of a same-sex relationship.

The long and short of this is that while same-sex relationships are not recognized in the Immigration Act, the existence of such relationship greatly improves one's chances of obtaining landed immigrant status and eventually citizenship in this country.

The process is basically as follows. An application package is received from and provided to an immigration visa office outside Canada. The application package submitted will include in addition to the basic application form, a cover letter in which you identify, among other things, that the reason you are applying for permanent residency is because of your same sex relationship with a Canadian citizen or permanent resident. You will also include a letter from your partner confirming the relationship and expressing his or her willingness to support you. Finally, you will include supporting documentation, including documents that tend to "prove" your relationship, such as evidence of joint ownership of possessions, evidence of travel together, long distance phone bills, joint rental agreement, joint bank statements, photographs, wills - basically, whatever information you may be able to come up with that might tend to prove that the relationship exists. You will also include such documents as letters of

support, confirming your relationship and supporting your application, documents speaking to your employability such as a resume, volunteer activity and letters from past and any potential employers.

After submitting the application, you must wait until you hear, by letter, from the immigration office. The office will advise you in writing of your next step. Medical examinations and criminal record checks are required and the office may request other information. HIV tests are not presently mandatory, but can be requested at the discretion of a doctor.

While many gays and lesbians have found success through the informal process currently in place, there remain significant problems with the current state of affairs. First, the existence of this policy is not publicized by Immigration Canada. For the most part, lesbians and gays must discover this policy through other sources like LEGIT because they are unlikely to receive the information from the Department itself. A gay positive policy is of little assistance if we are not made aware of its existence because the policy is kept in the closet.

Further, the "policy" relating to same sex couples is informal and discretionary. Accordingly, there are no rules, no appeals, and no assurance of consistency in decision making. While we can lessen our chances of being dealt with unfairly by submitting our application to a visa office, we have been told it appears to be "right-minded", there are no guarantees and no redress if we are treated unfairly.

LEGIT continues to advocate for change to the immigration laws. They are urging the Department to include same sex partners within the Family Class applications. In this way, same-sex applications will be more formalized, the process will be more objective and transparent and there will be more satisfactory avenues for appealing decisions that appear to be unfair.

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To Times.10

I don't know if you guys will be open-minded enough to print this letter, but I felt I had to respond to some points expressed in the "God and Being Gay" article in November's issue of Times .10.

I want to make clear at the start that the worst possible approach to the issue of homosexuality (which, sadly, has been the norm among right-wingers in general and even many church people) is fostering persecution and hatred of gays and lesbians. Homosexuals should be treated with the love and respect due every human being.

I am a Christian, and I see this example of unconditional love best portrayed in Jesus Christ. However, as a Christian, I also believe that the gay lifestyle is wrong in God's eyes. This doesn't mean that I should treat gays any differently than anyone else—"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". There is no contradiction involved in loving the sinner, yet hating the sin, as this is how God loves us. However, many of the statements made by the writer, who claims to be a Christian, do not express a Christian viewpoint at all.

I want to start by pointing out that that appeals to the "finding of modern science", made so often by the supporters of homosexuality, are totally beside the point. It may be true that scientists have, as they claim, found a gene, which predisposes one toward homosexuality. They've also found a gene which shows up commonly in serial killers, but does this mean that serial killers had no choice in the matter or that we can't hold them morally responsible for their actions?

Second, the statement that "homosexuality is not an illness and no known system of treatment can change it" is not based on scientific fact. It is based on a value judgement, and psychologists are in no privileged position with regard to these judgements, although they attempt to legitimize their opinions with the stamp of scientific approval.

The writer seems to accept that homosexuality cannot be changed because it is part of one's "inner being". Appeals to such an immortal soul or unchangeable, essential nature directly contradicts the promise of Christ that those who believe in him are born again. "If anyone is in me, he is a new creation. Behold, the old things are passed away, every thing has become new".

Although the writer claims to "search the Scriptures for what they do and do not say, praying that the spirit will lead us into all truth", his real concern is apparently an easy out, rather than fidelity to the Biblical revelation. In case he is unaware, the Christian prohibition has a strong Biblical basis. In the book of Romans, to cite just one example, we find it written

"Therefore, God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator, who is forever praised. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way, men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion." (Romans 1: 24-26)

Once again, I hope that you will print this letter, in order to help clear up some misconceptions on both sides of the fence about the Christian position on homosexuality. I would encourage anyone who is curious about God or Jesus Christ and his example of how to live, to pick up a Bible and check it out for themselves

(Editor's Note: Name withheld - unable to verify as to the validation on the authour of God and Being

Gay we are delighted that you wrote. It gives us the opportunity to show the difference between the world view of being Christian and the narrow minded approach with the same old trite and followers of the Alberta dictatorship currently in office)

Validation:

A Word from the Bishop: (authour of God and Being Gay)

Welcome to the Southern California West Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You are invited to worship and work with us to the Glory of God and in service to the Lord. *Come share the joy!*

Paul W. Egerton, Bishop

Southern California West Synod

As we seek to fulfill our call to be God's faithful people in our community, we have developed a **Statement of**

Priorities:

We are committed to starting new mission congregations and other programs which evangelize/reach out to the varied cultures, races, classes, and ages in our synod regardless of their ability to be economically self-sufficient.

We are committed to addressing the needs of smaller and transitional congregations creatively so that they can realize their full potential to be gifts to their communities.

We are committed to creating and acting out an understanding in our Synod that we are each part of one interdependent family—mutually supportive and linked together in one shared mission, making God's love and Gospel visible to all.

We are committed to an increased emphasis on spiritual nurture and spiritual growth within the Synod.

Subject: Re. God and Being Gay

by Charles Bidwell

Everyone is entitled to their opinion and especially in matters of faith. As the United Church of Canada is rediscovering, healthy conversation, dialogue, exchange is useful; it presents the wide spectrum of ideas on a topic and invites others to explore and reflect on their beliefs. I am as glad you are printing Scott's letter as I am that you

are printing my letter to the editor.

I want to point out that there are different Christian responses to the matter of homosexual orientation. There is an upcoming conference in March entitled Embracing Spirituality Embracing Sexuality: Exploring Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Realities in a Faith Context which is being sponsored by several Christian church bodies specifically to explore the different Christian responses and affirm that there are responses which embrace innate homosexual orientation and expression as a gift from God. There is also a growing body of literature to support the view that such an approach is a valid Christian response (see bibliography below).

Scott will not be impressed by this literature or by any other arguments. He is convinced that he knows THE TRUTH, and anything other than that is heresy or demonic delusion. I only write to inform your readers that his is not the only truth. I encourage everyone to engage in theological reflection about all aspects of their lives and relationships with others. God talk is only scary when you are faced with a person who is convinced that they have God in their lifeboat and you are going to hell unless you believe what they believe.

Scott only quotes Paul's letters to the churches in Rome and Corinth and fails to recognize that:

1. PAUL NEVER QUOTES JESUS - not on this topic nor on any other. I follow Christ, not a convert to following Jesus who won't even quote him. (I even wonder if Paul was out to found his own sect.)
2. the part of Paul's letter to the Romans that he quotes refers to people who give up their "natural" relations and that when we who are same-gender oriented have sex with an opposite gendered person, we are giving up our natural relations and acting under pretense.
3. in other sections of Paul's writings he lists those who will not experience the realm of heaven. The terms in this list, which many have translated as "homosexuals", are indeed referring to male prostitutes and their "johns" - a situation of using another person and not a situation of heavenly mutual pleasuring between friends or lovers.

Scott writes that printing his letter will "help clear up some misconceptions on both sides of the fence about the Christian position on homosexuality." THE Christian position does not exist. Several Christian positions do exist.

I do not presume to have THE TRUTH; I only share with you what seems to ring true for me after years of study, reading various authors, discussing the topic with theologians and Christians (some of whom are homosexually oriented).

HOURS

MON	11:00 - 8:00
TUES	11:00 - 8:00
WED	11:00 - 8:00
THUR	11:00 - 8:00
FRI	11:00 - 10:00
SAT	11:00 - 8:00
SUN	12:00 - 8:00

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The Sleeping Bear

By
Murray Billett

No this isn't a fairy tale and well, ok then, the pun is intended.

This is a true story, one that is a scary reality for many of us. Lately, I sense our community is in a sort of hibernation, like a big sleeping bear. The last couple of months the majority of the media has relentlessly bashed us about. Ralph Klein and many of his hateful colleagues as they continue on their path of intolerance and discrimination. No, you can not foster children, yes it is OK to be denied apartments and access to services. Yes, they can continue to terminate our employment for being gay or lesbian. Most recently the fury of HATE spewing from all corners on the opening of "Down Under". All of this turns on intolerance and discrimination based on sexual orientation. Refusing to accept the reality of the diversity that exists in our province. This government and many Albertans continue to throw stones at the "sleeping bear". I believe that one day our community is going to wake up from our hibernation and say we are not going to accept this type of behavior. Our community is vibrant and strong and has the potential to flex its collective muscle. I have seen this "Bear" roar down Whyte Ave during Pride parades and at EVM Concerts etc. We have the ability to accomplish a great deal if we work together and all do our part. My sense is that as a community we are always on the defensive. Our community has to be more pro-active.

We all have a responsibility as citizens and as members of our community. Are you doing your part? If you have been or are being discriminated against I believe you have a responsibility to confront that issue. If we continue to allow segments of our society to discriminate against us we are victims of our own circumstance. Our silence validates the very discrimination that exists and is so incredibly wrong. The very reason I believe that discrimination hinders coming out...but coming out hinders discrimination.

As many of you are aware the Supreme Court of Canada will be ruling on the Delwin Vriend case sometime in the next few months. We are certainly hopeful that we receive a favorable ruling. In the event we are successful our Human Rights Legislation (Human Rights, citizenship and Multiculturalism Act) may be amended to include sexual orientation. What our community must remember is that Legislation does not change the heart, it simply stops the heartless. It will be our responsibility to utilize the legislation. We have to stand up for ourselves. I believe we should start immediately to document incidents of discrimination.

The Human Rights Commission currently will receive discrimination complaints based on sexual orientation. They will not act on them until such time as the Supreme Court Rules. Information packages are available by calling the Commission at 427-7661. They are also willing to come and speak to individual groups on how the commission works. The Education Officer for the Human Rights Commission is available to attend your community meeting to explain how they function and how to launch complaints. Even if you do not wish to file an official complaint. Please document these incidents. You have one year to preserve the facts and actually file complaint. Keep a copy of your facts in the event you change your mind or circumstances allow you to proceed. Perhaps someday we will all be able to live in an Alberta where we are all ensured of equal rights and can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

It is one thing to be discriminated against however if you are a victim of a crime, please contact the Edmonton Police Service.

In cases of non-emergency 423-4567 or 911 in case of emergency Gay and Lesbian Police Liaison information is available at 421-2277

The Edmonton Police Service works in cooperation with the Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community and is committed to dealing appropriately and professionally with issues presented to them. If you are treated respectfully and properly by the EPS we should pass that onto them. Additionally if you are not treated properly please call GLCCE at 488-3234 and leave a message for either Murray or Fred



Private Retreat

I've seen a place of beauty true
With skies of deepest clearest blue
And mountains tall, majestic gray
Where deer and wolves and rabbits play
A place where birds and dragons soar
Not confined to ancient lore
Where mages flourish and use magick
With results not often tragic
A place where castles have no guards
Instead are entertained by bards
Where sunsets range from blues to reds
Then we sleep on feather beds
The forest trees are tall and green
A place where very few have been
Round a glade lush with grass
Lying there a pretty lass
Near a cool and sparkling stream

Rayven

one more reason.



good beer.
coming soon.
to a club near you.

A New Gay Owned & Operated Business in Edmonton

"New Alliance Travel"

The Edmonton gay and lesbian traveler now has more choice of travel agents. New Alliance Travel commenced operations in September 1997 as a full service, gay owned and operated travel agency, specializing in meeting the travel needs of gays and lesbians in Western Canada. This travel agency makes a unique offering to the Edmonton community with sensible and experienced approaches combined with an emphasis on community.

Underlying its business philosophy is a commitment to being community driven. Clients should feel a part of building a valuable

community resource, perhaps even a part of a family of friends, while getting the quality services they want. This, in part, means that clients are regularly asked for their ideas to better improve client service and product offering. These questions are never asked insincerely, but are always part of genuine commitment. A community based travel agency can and should be a part of general community building, meeting new people, making new alliances, and getting more value for your money.

Operating with its own alliances, it is ready to meet all the travel needs of its clients. All the standard offerings of any travel agency are available together with specifically gay and lesbian travel product. It also offers consolidated buying power so that competitive pricing is always made available. Services are available in English, Portuguese and Spanish. Management confirms that cruise vacations and travel to South America and Europe are planned to be a major component of its international sales. Additionally, it plans to offer gay and lesbian group departures of its own. Its own group travel operations will emphasize group travel

to achieve enhanced buying power while leaving individual flexibility to participate in some organized activities without resigning oneself to a completely regimented vacation. Clients should be free to be part of a larger group if they so desire, but should not be confined to travel only as a group experience.

New Alliance Travel offers several client newsletters and options for last-minute travel and deep discount notifications. Its telephone number also emphasizes its community commitment and translates to "I-am-pink" (426-7465). Information is available on the Internet or by e-mail and, of course, they can be reached toll free throughout Canada with an 888 number.

Edmonton has a real ability to strengthen its community. Such community strengthening starts with an individual commitment from each and every one of us to make conscious efforts to support the good efforts of the individuals and businesses who are also making a like commitment. Look to New Alliance Travel to be a leader in community building.



Mardi Gras

New Orleans Style

Saturday, March 7
Strathcona Arts Barns
10330-84 Avenue
7:00 pm

Featuring in concert...
Edmonton Vocal Minority
P J Perry
VOCE
The A Cappella Experience
and surprise performers!

Enjoy an evening of New Orleans atmosphere...music, comedy, martini and daiquiri bars, and a fabulous silent auction.

Cabaret seating.
Tickets \$15 advance \$18 door
\$12 advance students/seniors

Advance Tickets...
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The Front Page ■ Lyon's Empire

Produced by EVM. Infoline 988-4620

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RADIO NETWORK

all jazzed up!

Edmonton's Gay Community Support Groups and Services

AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

The Network retains its original operating philosophy: to provide support and education wherever it can be helpful in north central Alberta. AIDS Network of Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. Today the network provides Education, Info-Line, Speakers Bureau, Resource material and various Support groups. If you wish to know more about the Network call 488-5742

Affirm United

(United Church of Canada) meets at McDougall United Church 10025 101 St. Last Saturday of the month, at 7:30 - 9:30 PM For more info call: Larry at 429-4269 or Phyllis at 434-4808

Alcoholics Anonymous

A A is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

AXIOS - Edmonton

AXIOS is an international organization of Eastern Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic Gay and Lesbian Christians. Our mandate is to promote a greater understanding of human sexuality and spirituality within the Eastern Christian tradition. The AXIOS monthly newsletter is available via the Internet. Contact Dushan at 454-8449 for more information.

Bare Naked Boys Club of Edmonton - BNBC

A naturalist group of gay men in Edmonton interested in social nudity. This is not a sex club. Men of all ages welcome. Call Fred at 469-7231 for information.

The B.E.A.R.S. of Edmonton

(A group for hairy men and their admirers) meet the last Friday of the month 9:00pm - 11:00pm at Boots n' Saddle. Or write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3. Our email address is bears@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Brethren Mennonite Council

For Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual concerns. This is a support community for gay, lesbian and bisexual Mennonites and friends. Contact Tim at 454-1479 or Garrett at 423-1725 or e-mail: garrett.epp@ualberta.ca.

Dignity Edmonton

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay, lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Dennis at 482-6845

Edmonton Prime Timers

Prime Timers is a social fraternity for older gay and bisexual men and their

friends. The purpose of Prime Timers is to provide an opportunity for mature gay men to fraternize and join together in a program of social activities. Meetings held 2nd Sunday each month at the Unitarian Church at 3:00 p.m. If you would like more information address correspondence to Chairman, Edmonton Prime Timers, Suite 1093, 11444 - 119 Street, Edmonton, T5G 2X6. Contact Peter at 426 7019. E-mail: mercury@planet.eon.net

Edmonton Vocal Minority

A mixed voice chorus joining together in a common love of music and a desire to build a greater spirit of unity and pride in the lesbian community. If you are interested in singing with EVM or working in the areas of promotion, staging or front of house concerts and events, please contact us at P. O. Box 12091, Main Post Office, T5J 3L2 or telephone 988-4620. E-mail: evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society

The Feather of Hope was founded on a need to provide AIDS education and support to Native People in Alberta. Through education and the development of communities in partnership, it is hoped that the spread of AIDS will be lessened. We offer training and education programs, as well as support through traditional ways. Volunteers are very important to us, if you can help, or would simply like some more information call 488-5773

Free-To-Be Volleyball Association

We have 3 divisions: 1) Fun/Recreational - Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; No regular commitment needed: Now until end of June you can join anytime. Fee: \$10.00/year; Level: Beginners to Intermediate: Donnan School - 79 Ave & 87 Street. 2) Competitive - Tuesdays, 7-9:30 p.m.; Fee \$35/8 week period; Coaching & Games each night. 3) Beach - Day/time/cost TBA; June to September. For more Volleyball information call Ron at 428-3375.

Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (G.L.C.C.E.)

The centre contributes to the well-being of Edmonton's gay, lesbian and bisexual community through informational, social support services and its social information line. The services offered by the centre include an information line, telephone referrals, library, drop-in peer support counselling and social activities arranged and sponsored by the centre. Further information is available at 488-3234. E-Mail glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Gaylines

A special telephone service is available. The intent of this line is to aid in the forming of a central information net that will aid all walks of life. Messages are outgoing only. The line is setup in a single location that will be permanent and will also be listed in the phone directory. It is free to all Alternative Lifestyles. Support groups, Clubs, Individuals and Businesses. Call 486-9661 to request your mailbox.

Gay Mens' Wenesday Coffee Evenings

At 7:30 p.m. Breadstick Cafe at 10159 - 82 Avenue. This group fosters a safe, comfortable environment for all its participants. At the same time, it discourages attendance solely for sexual relations. Join us to relax, share experiences, and establish friendships. There is no age limit. Tel: 403-463-2098 (Graham) E-mail: gwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Gay Men's Outreach Crew (G.M.O.C.)

G.M.O.C. is a peer education initiative for gay/bisexual men that works toward: preventing the spread of HIV amongst men who have sex with men, advocating for healthy lifestyle choices, and addressing social and health concerns by fostering self-esteem and gay positive attitudes. For information on G.M.O.C. workshops and other activities contact Kirk at 488-5742, or call our Hotline at 988-3671.

Gay and Lesbian Awareness (G.A.L.A.)

We are an organization interested in human rights issues especially related to sexual orientation and changing Federal and Provincial

legislation. We are always interested in new members. If you are interested call Murray Billet at 482-7421

Illusions Social Club

A social club for Crossdressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. Our main goal is to provide a safe, discreet and friendly atmosphere where we can socialize as a group. We also provide information and peer support for members. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information write to Illusions Social Club, Box 33002, Glenwood P.O., Edmonton, AB, T5P 4V8; or phone either 488-3234 (GLCCE) on Tuesday evenings to talk to someone person to person or 486-9661 box 1 to leave a message.

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations which either provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held monthly on the last Wednesday. For meeting location and time please see the Court notice boards in Boots and Saddle or the Roost. You may also call Gaylines at 486-9661 and press box 27. <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/5904>

Interfaith Association on AIDS Edmonton

The purpose of this association is to sensitize local faith communities and their leaders to the unique spiritual and emotional needs of those infected by HIV/AIDS. The following faith communities are included: Anglican, Baha'i, Baptist, Beth Shalom Synagogue, Lutheran, Metropolitan Community Church, Roman Catholic, Temple Beth Ora, Ukrainian Catholic, Unitarian and United Churches. Phone 448-1768 for more information.

Lambda Christian Community Church

We are a non-denominational evangelical Christian church. One of our primary goals is to provide a safe and affirming environment for all who desire to worship God. Lambda Community Church, 11148-84 Avenue (Garneau United Church) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p. m.

Liaison Committee, The

In June of 1993 Edmonton Police Service and the Gay and Lesbian community for met a liaison to promote an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect. For more Info call Edmonton Police Service at 424-7248 (pager 293) or Murray Billet at 482-7421

Lipstick Lesbian Youth Peer Support

This is an organization intended to allow all femme lesbians and bisexuals the chance to meet and realize that they are not alone. Our goal is not to segregate the lesbian community, but to acknowledge that femmes do exist. This is an opportunity to meet and socialize with other femmes. Please call 988-4836 for more information.

Living Positive

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768

Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call Tim at 482-2294, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, T5J3K4e-mail luthconc@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton (M.C.C.)

We are a local church within the denomination of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Our major focus is to the defranchised of society. The UFMCC allows anyone to feel a part of the Christian Community

and to claim our place in God's Universe. Services are open to all. We worship on Sunday evenings at 7:15 at McDougall United Church - South entrance. Please feel free to join us! Call 429-2321 for more information. E-mail: Charles.Bidwell@UAlberta.Ca

Northern Chaps

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and womyn was established six years ago. We strike to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events in order to heighten awareness. Northern chaps meets at Boots & Saddle on the first and third Friday of each month at 9 PM.

Northern Titans

Northern Titans International Bowling League meets every Saturday, at 5:00pm September to April, at Pins & Cues Bowling & Billiards Centre, Southeast corner of Westmount Shopping Centre, 111 Ave. & 135 St. For more information please call Paul Guerette at (403) 456-0851 or Karen Kurylo at (403) 432-7759.

Out and Out (O2)

An Outdoor and Recreation Group for Edmonton's Lesbian Community and their friends. Membership is \$5.00 per calendar year. Free newsletter published bimonthly and available at local gay hangouts. O2 Hotline is 988-3132 for activity inf., who to contact, how to join etc. Get Involved - Have Fun - Meet New People.

OUTreach

OUTreach is a university-based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. on campus; main floor of the Athabasca hall. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by calling 988-4166. E-mail: outreach@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca

PFLAG

Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Newsletter editor Ellen at 465-3057. Outreach to speak confidentially to a PFLAG volunteer 944-1394. Voice Box 3524 (PFLAG) Mon-Thurs, 7-9:30 p.m. (Recording 24 hrs a day). E-mail: showrish@compusmart.ab.ca

S.O.L.O.

Social Organization for Lesbians Only is a group that gets together for fun and recreation. Lesbians over 18 are welcome to join in for weekend functions and entertainment. We combine friendship, companionship and support with singles and couples welcome. Call Linda at 447-4776 for more information

Team Edmonton

Team Edmonton - Gay Games Association is set up to provide an opportunity for person interested in participating in the Gay Games through fund raising. If you would like to be involved with Team Edmonton call 482-2789

The Youth Group

(Formerly Pink Triangle Youth of Edmonton) will continue to meet every Saturday at 8:00 p.m. at the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612 - 124 Street. For more information or to give your input phone the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre at 488-3234.

Visions - Unitarian Church of Edmonton

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender discussion group. We meet the 4th Wednesday of the month. Call UCE at 454-8073 or Anita at 454-1992. Not necessarily Christian.

Womonspace

The purpose of Womonspace is to foster a positive Lesbian identity among the larger community and ourselves. We hold dances, produce a newsletter and hold other activities. For information call the Lesbian Life at 425-

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Letting "the secret" OUT, Trans Style!

By Stephany Lynne Russell

Imagine living in a world where it mattered not what colour your skin was, what religion you chose to follow, whether you were rich or poor, male or female, gay, straight or bisexual, or whether you were transgendered or not. Think of the possibilities for us as a species if this was the way things were. Think of how much less strife we would have in this world, how much less the need for war, violence, poverty and all the other horrible outcomes of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice. It's a sobering thought.

Unfortunately, we do not live in such a world and in this writer's opinion, we are still complete generations away from that place. And it is this reality that each of us faces when we choose to "out" ourselves regarding our "secret". This is equally true for both gay individuals and their transgendered sisters and brothers. However, the implications of coming out are dissimilar in many ways for these two groups.

Being Transgendered brings with it a whole new set of challenges that many gay folks do not face. Remember, the "gay movement" has been around for over twenty years now. Society is beginning to accept gay people more widely. Compassion and understanding is growing. Legislation is becoming more sensitive. For the Transgendered this is not yet the case and although we have been carried forward somewhat by the success of the gay movement, we remain a lot further behind in variety of areas. Many people are not even familiar with the terms Transgendered or Transsexual. Many believe that the issue is one of sexual orientation. No specific legislation exists to protect Trans folks. The medical community continues to hold unreasonable power over us, and our desires for self-determination. The list goes on and on.

Explaining that you are gay is never easy and considerable emotion, and often damaging outcomes, result. The same is true for Trans folks but with some added risks. First, being gay is not a "visual" issue. Walking down the street, you cannot typically separate gay from straight, although there are exceptions, yes. However, as an early, pre-operative Transsexual, I can tell you that I am "made" often. I do not as yet "pass" as a woman, in spite of the painstaking efforts I go to in order to be female (in fact that may never be the case). People stare, they point and sometimes they snicker. And occasionally, as has happened on more than a single occasion, they actually yell some profanity at you. Or perhaps, as happened to one of my Trans friends while we were having a meal in a local restaurant, they will throw a lit cigarette butt into your hair hoping that it might catch on fire.

In the workplace the issues continue to be dissimilar. If you're gay, you needn't even tell your employer. Why would you? You're affections, and especially your sexual orientation, should be your business. And if you choose not to "tell", who would know? Likely not many. However, if you're Transgendered and plan to complete the process of physical change, you will eventually be forced to work as your new gender dictates because the medical requirements for gender re-assignment surgery make it mandatory. So, sooner or later, you will need to tell your employer and co-workers that you will no longer be coming to work as "Joe" but as "Betty" or vice versa. If you've worked for this employer for some time, or if the company is typically "male or macho" dominated, you can be assured that the experience will be very unpleasant. With this prospect ahead of them, many Transgendered individuals choose to seek new employment opportunities or become self-employed until such a time as they are passable in their new gender role. But even then, the hurdles persist. For instance, how do you explain to a prospective employer that your references will know you by a male name while you now go by a female name and identity? Or, what about the individuals who simply do not have the skills to become self-employed? What do they do?

At home, the issues are equally complex. If you're married and have children, you will have to face considerable heartache and the inevitable realization that although you still might be very much in love with your spouse, your gender choices will ultimately end the relationship. Children, depending upon their ages and gender, will present a whole new set of challenges. If you have grandchildren or one day will, what will they call you? Transdad? Transma?

Coming out as a Trans person is very frightening, and although it does parallel the gay experience somewhat, it is often considerably more challenging. However, as with both groups, the simple action of telling, of letting that weight off your shoulders is perhaps one of the most freeing experiences of one's life. And it is here where the two experiences are the most similar and have the greatest potential to provide the individual with a new way of looking at life. In other words, this need not be an entirely negative experience, as I have found out. Much that is positive can be experienced.

Finding the value in that experience requires considerable courage, but the rewards can be enormous. I will examine this issue in the next issue. In the meantime, you are encouraged to express comments and opinions by contacting me c/o the Editor of this publication.

GALA Festival '98

By Henry Williams

GALA Festival '98, Mardi Gras, and "Cabaret" are only three of the many opportunities for community minded people to "Get up...get active...and get involved" this year. The Edmonton Vocal Minority, our Gay community concert choir has re-organized its management team to include volunteers with any and all talents and skills. People are needed to be active in the production of its concerts, from ticket sellers and stage crew through bartenders, secretaries, computer consultants and couriers.

And for what, you say?

To be an integral part of the fun of hosting the first national festival of GALA choruses in Canada. To meet hundreds of new people on the May long weekend from across Canada and the U.S. who will be here to Celebrate our culture right here in River City.

To dress up...or dress down as the case may be for the exciting night of fun and entertainment on March 7th with guests, PJ Perry and the hot vocals of VOCE at Mardi-Gras at the bus barns. Even now the production staff of The EVM are preparing to transform the Bus Barns into a party room with a touch of New Orleans.

The management team, headed by designer Jerry Archer is well organized and is fine-tuning its operation by including volunteer staff under its Production department to include a properties manager, a volunteer registration person, and volunteer co-ordinators in its Human Resources department and an array of positions to work with the communications co-ordinator, research, marketing and fundraising. Some, but not all-administrative positions have been filled and everyone is encouraged to check us out, and then check-in to spending some of your free time with the Vocal Minority. Oh, and thanks a lot...we'll be having our first Volunteer recognition and appreciation day on May 30th. Henry Williams, the Human resources co-ordinator invites you to call him, if you know someone who deserves recognition for his or her work in the past with the EVM whom he may not be aware of. He can be reached at 1-403-663-2029 or by leaving a message with the volunteer registration manager at 473-4025. It's organized, it's fun, it's rewarding and especially...It's easy to get more information or to register. Call Judy at 473-4025.

Edmonton's Party with a Purpose

A fundraising effort in support of the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

Featuring a silent auction, light hors d'oeuvres, and performances by The Kit Kat and some of Canada's most talented musicians.

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Saturday
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or the AIDS Network - Phone: 488-5742
Tickets: \$25 in advance \$30 at the door

Syncrude

The AIDS Network

The Liaison Committee

The Edmonton Police Service
in cooperation with the
Edmonton Gay and Lesbian Community

- promoting effective two-way communication
- promoting education and awareness
- identifying and resolving crime and safety concerns
- increasing police awareness of lifestyle issues

To contact the committee, call: 421-2277
(all calls strictly confidential)

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in cooperation with the Edmonton Gay and Lesbian Community
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(Gay & Lesbian
Community Centre)
Telephone 488-3234

PFLAG/T
(Parents, Friends of
Lesbians & Gays/Transgender)
Telephone 462-5958

Has alcohol been an important influence in your family's life?

You maybe aware that there were alcohol problems in your family when you were growing up. However, you may not appreciate ways in which those problems continue to affect you, even as an adult.

Consider the following questions:

"How can I be sure if my parent is really an alcoholic?"
"But I'm gone from home now, why should my parents' problems bother me?"
"If my family is the root of all this, why do my brothers and sisters seem OK?"
"The past is the past; shouldn't I just try to forget it and move on?"

Your emotional and psychological well being, your academic work, and your present and future relationships may be affected by having grown up in a home where alcohol was a significant problem. It is important that you learn specific ways that alcohol problems in your family continue to influence your life. Let's consider the questions one by one.

"How can I be sure if my parent is really an alcoholic?"

It is not necessary to diagnose your parent. Alcohol disrupts the consistency and predictability, which should be present in every family. It is this disruption and the resulting confusion and chaos that are important — not a medical diagnosis of your parent. A recent poll reported that one in every three American families is affected by alcohol abuse. If alcohol was or is an important influence in your family, it is important that you learn about patterns related to being an Adult Child of an Alcoholic (ACoA). An "alcoholic" family is any family disrupted by alcohol abuse.

"But I'm gone from home now; why should my parents' problems bother me?"

If you grew up in an alcoholic family you may have longer for the day when you could go to college and leave the pain and chaos of your family behind. You may be surprised, therefore, to find at college that you experience feelings of dissatisfaction, apathy, or distance from other people, similar to those you felt at home. Such feelings are easy to understand when you consider that families are places where you learn about yourself and about life. Although all families operate with "rules," alcoholic families have rules which severely limit the development and growth of the members. Claudia Black, a leading author and theorist regarding ACoAs, has identified three such rules in alcoholic homes:

1. DON'T TRUST. In alcoholic families, promises are often forgotten, celebrations cancelled and parents' moods

unpredictable. As a result, ACoAs learn not to count on others and often have a hard time believing that others can care enough to follow through on their commitments.

2. DON'T FEEL. Due to the constant pain of disappointment, a child in an alcoholic family must "quit feeling" in order to survive. After all, what's the use of hurting all the time. In these families, when emotions are expressed, they are often abusive, and prompted by drunkenness. These outbursts have no positive result and, along with the drinking, are usually denied the following day. Thus, ACoAs have had few if any opportunities to see emotions expressed appropriately and used to foster constructive change. "So," the ACoA thinks, "why feel anything when the feelings will only get out of control and won't change anything anyway? I don't want to hurt more than I already do."

3. DON'T TALK. ACoAs learn in their families not to talk about a huge part of their reality — drinking. This results from the family's need to deny that a problem exists and that drinking is tied to that problem. That which is so evident must not be spoken aloud. There is often an unspoken hope that is no one mentions the drinking it won't happen again. Also, there is no good time to talk. It is impossible to talk when a parent is drunk. When the parent is sober, everyone wants to forget. From this early training, ACoAs often develop a tendency not to talk about anything unpleasant. "If my family is the root of all this, why do my brothers and sisters seem OK?"

Each member of an alcoholic family tends to find his or her own way to live with these three rules.

Claudia Black and others talk about different "roles" that emerge for children in their attempts to make sense of the chaos.

Hero: These children try to ensure that the family looks "normal" to the rest of the world. In addition, they often project a personal image of achievement, competence, and responsibility to the outside world. They tend to be academically or professionally very successful. The cost of such success is often denial of their own feelings and a belief that they are "imposters."

Adjuster: In order to cope with the chaos of their families, these children learn to adjust in inappropriate ways. They learn never to expect or to plan anything. They often strive to be invisible and to avoid taking a stand or rocking the boat. As a result, they often come to feel that they are drifting through life and are out of control.

Placater: These children learn early to smooth over potentially upsetting situations in the family. They seem to have an uncanny ability to sense what others are feeling at the expense of their own feelings. They tend to take total responsibility for the emotional care of the family. Because of their experience in this role, they often choose careers as helping professionals, careers which can reinforce their tendencies to ignore their own needs.

Scapegoat: These people are identified as the "family problem." They are likely to get into various kinds of trouble, including drug and alcohol abuse, as a way of expressing their anger at the family. They also function as a sort of pressure valve. When tension builds in the family, the scapegoat will misbehave as a way of relieving pressure while allowing the family to avoid dealing with the drinking problem. Scapegoats tend to be unaware of feelings other than anger. Some of these roles may look more effective than others, but each has its own drawbacks and its own pain.

From the perspective of your role, it may be hard for you to understand the pain of a brother or sister in another role. Even though their pain may not be obvious, all of these roles have potentially serious consequences. "The past is past; shouldn't I just try to forget it and move on?" Trying to forget the past without understanding how it affected you will usually not work and may lead to more problems. The best way to "move on" is to squarely face the past, its importance, and its meaning for you. Often this means understanding and forgiving your parents so that the healing process can begin. You can learn more about making peace with the past in several ways. You may choose to read some of the excellent books written for ACoAs or you may opt for individual therapy, group therapy, Al-Anon, or support groups for ACoAs. Most communities now offer educational programs for ACoAs as an intermediate step between books and therapy. Need Additional Help?

Some excellent books on the topic are: 1. "It Will Never Happen to Me." Claudia Black. Denver, Colorado: Medical Administration Press. 1982. 2. "Guide to Recovery: A Book for Adult Children of Alcoholics." H. Gravitz and J. Bowden. Pompano Beach, Florida: Health Communications, Inc. 1985. 3. "The Struggle for Intimacy." Janet Woititz.

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fashion fix

by Clint Domsky



Everybody has his or her opinion about what's hot and what's not in fashion.

This, however, is my column so this is my opinion. There are many aspects to fashion, too many for an article, so I've decided to write about the ones that I have seen in my time. The "faux-pas", why they are wrong, and alternatives to those "no-no's".

There are, of course, exceptions to every rule. On the other hand, there are places for those exceptions, and walking around in public is not one of them. However, high school, the circus and the 80's are.

These are the abbreviations, which I

shall use to list these "no-no's". FP shall abbreviate faux pas, and Alt shall abbreviate alternative.

F.P- wearing horizontal and vertical stripes together.

Why- these are conflicting patterns.

Alt.- wear one or the other pattern, but not both at the same time. Remember that horizontal stripes make you look shorter and wider, while vertical stripes will make you look taller and slimmer.

F.P- wearing large-hoop earrings.

Why- they are tacky and should be put back where they came from, like the 80's maybe.

Alt.- if you must wear hoops, then make them around an inch in diameter.

F.P- black bobby pins in blonde hair.

Why- you want pins to blend in as close as possible to your own hair colour.

Alt.- purchase pins as close as possible to your hair colour.

F.P- eyebrows that are drawn on, in a completely different colour than your hair.

Why- Beside the fact that drawn eyebrows look false to begin with, eyebrows in another colour are even worse.

Alt.- use a colour closer to your hair colour.

F.P- white socks with black pants and shoes.

Why- too much contrast in a place where you don't want people looking. Your ankles are not a necessary point of attention.

Alt.- buy black socks, as they go with anything except all white. If you are wearing all white then you had better be either a bride or an angel.

F.P- imitation metal jewelry.

Why- they may be cheaper than the real thing, as well as look like them, but when you least expect it they peel, chip, or turn nasty colours. Alt.- purchase brass, steel, or copper jewelry if you're too cheap to buy the real thing.

F.P- ponytails on one side of the head.

Why- same as the hoop earrings, they are outdated.

Alt.- keep it to the back or the top of your head. If you look cute with pigtails, then by all means do it.

F.P- Wearing foundation make-up that doesn't match your natural tone.

Why- It looks obvious, especially when improperly blended.

Alt.- find a foundation that matches your neck. That way, your face isn't a different colour than your neck and it doesn't look like you are wearing it.

F.P- teasing your hair until it looks like a cotton ball.

Why- back-combing will never go out of style if you do it in the right way to add volume to otherwise limp hair. If you tease too much, then your hair will look like a mound of dust bunnies.

Alt.- light teasing, add a wave or curl, or use

hair spray at the roots.

F.P- wearing lots of bangles.

Why- way too 80's. We've been there once, but please, let's not go back.

Alt.- wear one or two of them, if you must. Or even better, don't wear them at all.

F.P- rolling your pant legs up.

Why- it looks "half-assed". It makes you look like you were too lazy to hem your pants, or that you don't know how.

Alt.- hem those pants, people! If you are lazy, or don't know how to hem, then fold them inside your pant leg.

F.P- red eyeliner drawn all the way around your eye.

Why- this is really two no-no's. First, eyeliner is supposed to enhance your eyes. Red liner just makes them look like they are bleeding, and blue looks way too fake. Second, drawing all the way around the eye only makes your eyes look small, and the rest of your make-up too obvious.

Alt.- use gray, brown or black eyeliner on the top and part or most of the bottom. However, make sure to blend!

Once again, these are merely my opinions of what is wrong for everyday "going shopping" fashion. There are more, but I'm tired, as it is 4:00 in the morning and I've, once again, waited until the last minute to put an article together from notes and minor research.



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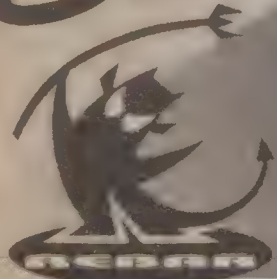
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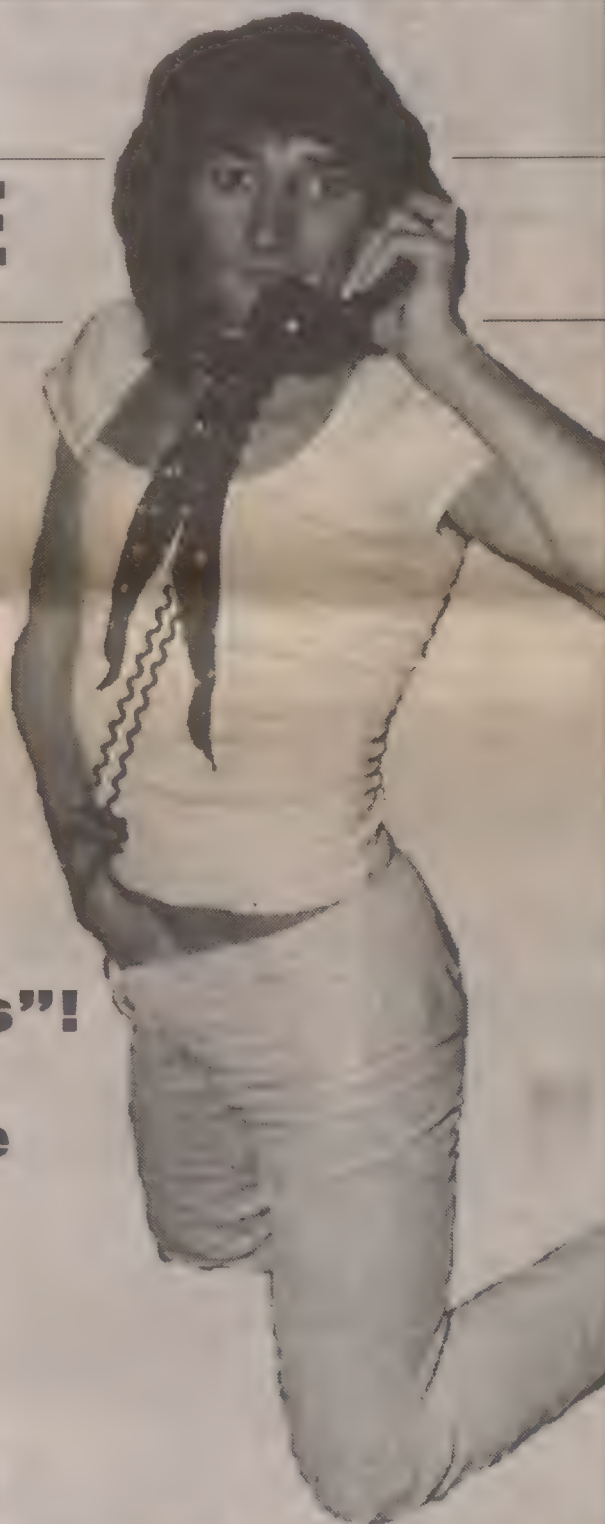
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plus guests

Searching for inspiration with Rod the Mod!

An excerpt from Roger Dull's
newest action/mystery novel,
"In The Valley of The Deodorants"!

George Michael and Boy George
discuss which one of them
is the most irrelevant!

SPECIAL IN THIS ISSUE ONLY!
Nothing at all about Marc Bolan!



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RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

What does "Religious Tolerance" mean?

Webster's New World Dictionary (1995) defines tolerate in part as: "to recognize and respect others' beliefs, practices etc without sharing them"

The Concise Oxford Dictionary (1960) defines toleration in part as: "recognition of right of private judgment in religious matters, liberty to uphold one's religious opinions and forms of worship, or to enjoy all social privileges etc without regard to religious differences"

Note that a person can be religiously tolerant in action, while not being tolerant in thought. One can believe that all other faith groups are profoundly evil but let them follow their spiritual path without interference. You might believe: that all sects and religions contain much good and some evil, but that your own religion is "best" one for you; or that your faith is the best of all of the world's religions, for you and for everyone else. All other religions contain major errors; or that your faith is the only valid religion. All other religions are worthless; or that your faith is the only valid religion, and was created by God. All other religions are creations of Satan and are profoundly evil. Ultimately, it does not matter much, as long as you (and others) do not act on any negative beliefs towards followers of other religions. We don't have to agree that another person's beliefs are valid in order to let them live in peace. On the other hand, intolerance is a form of hatred and some people feel that hatred is bad for the heart.

Is Religious Criticism Intolerant?

It is our belief that we should all attempt to be as tolerant as possible about other people's spiritual and religious beliefs. However, belief does not exist in isolation from the rest of the world. Beliefs can generate actions. Sometimes those actions harm others. There is a fine line between religious intolerance, and the legitimate criticism of a religious belief or practice. We feel that it is acceptable to oppose religious beliefs only when they are dangerous to people's health, or limit other person's aspirations.

Forexample, it is our opinion that one can be religiously tolerant even while being critical of a group or person which: discriminates in employment on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, marital status, race, religion, etc encourages people to be bitten by poisonous snakes as a test of faith permits or promotes the physical and/or psychological abuse of children while driving out "demons" during an exorcism deprives a child of badly needed medical attention in favor of seeking a cure through prayer physically abuses a child on the basis of a religious belief that "sparing the rod spoils the child" preaches hatred of others on the basis of their gender, nationality, race, religion, age, sexual orientation, or ability status. In other words, we feel that it is acceptable to be critical of intolerance and of practices which harm others.

History of Religious Intolerance in Europe and America Prior to the establishment of the Roman Empire, religious intolerance was the norm. Individual tribes had their own Gods and/or Goddesses who belonged to them and ruled over their area. A person joining the tribe would be expected to abandon their old beliefs and accept the tribe's deities. Within the Roman Empire, there were periods of religious freedom and tolerance. As long as a person fulfilled their normal civic duties, they were free to worship as they wished. Within the empire, many religions flourished: the Greek and Roman Pagan religions, mystery religions, Christianity, Judaism, Mithraism, etc. Unfortunately, "civic duties" included periodically making a nominal sacrifice at the temple of the Roman State religion. One of the reasons for the



persecution of the Christians was that many refused to perform this duty. After the establishment of Christianity as the main religious force in Europe, this period of relative tolerance ended. Persecution of minority faiths was common:

Jews were horribly persecuted. Initially, this was because all persons of the Jewish faith were regarded as equally responsible for the execution of Jesus Christ. In reality, the Roman occupying forces in Palestine were responsible. Yet the descendants of 1st Century CE Romans, the Italians, are never blamed for Jesus' unjust execution. Only the Jews are. During the Middle Ages, Jews became a handy scapegoat during the plagues. Often at the instigation of the Christian Church, Jewish communities were invaded and many individuals massacred. The logical end-result of centuries of anti-Semitism occurred during the Holocaust when the Nazi's exterminated 6 million Jews.

Break-away Christian movements were viciously exterminated by the Christian Church. These included the Cathars, Knights Templar and uguenots. Followers of the Old Religion were ruthlessly hunted down by the Church. These were followers of the religion of the ancient Celtic people (which Christianity had replaced). A few hundred thousand Witches were arrested, tortured, and burned at the stake over the period circa 1450 to 1792 in Europe. After the Reformation, the Protestants preferred to hang their Witches. Islam has a history of greater tolerance than Christianity. Jews were sometimes subjected to additional taxes, but they were otherwise left in peace. The European conquest of North America resulted in the deaths of tens of millions of Natives by conquest or disease, and the forced religious conversion of many of the survivors. It is only in recent years that a few Christian churches have begun to realize the enormity

of the crimes perpetrated against Natives, and have made formal apologies. It is also only recently that Native spirituality has become appreciated and valued.

Religious Intolerance in North America

We have made much progress in the past few decades: With the repeal of oppressive laws, Native Americans are now able to conduct their traditional ceremonies The exclusion of Jews from membership in golf clubs and similar organizations is less common than in the past A person no longer has to believe in the existence of a personal deity in order to be a conscientious objector to military service Many local organizations for clergy now include non-Christians J.F. Kennedy became the first Roman Catholic President of the US; the religious faith of the Prime Minister of Canada seems to be of little interest to anyone. (We suspect he is a Roman Catholic). Ritual consumption of peyote during some Native American rituals is permitted Native Elders are now generally given the same rights as Christian and Jewish clergy during prison visits Roman Catholic children are no longer taught that Protestants will go to eternal punishment in hell when they die; most Protestant children are no longer told that all Roman Catholics will go to hell.

The constitutions of the US and Canada guarantee religious freedom to all citizens, yet many hurdles remain to be overcome: Atheists are denied certain fundamental rights in some States Children are occasionally seized from homes because of some social workers' misunderstanding of their parents' religion. Parents are denied access to their children because of some judges' beliefs about the parents' faith. Leaders of some faith groups are not recognized as clergy during prison visitation. Some faith groups are not allowed to perform marriages

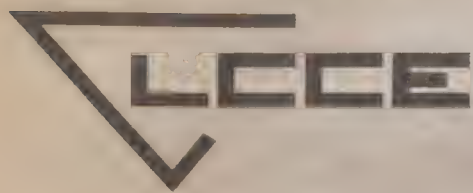
The Premier of a Canadian Province refused to sign

election papers for a candidate nominated for the Provincial Legislature on religious grounds Followers of certain faiths are only able to celebrate their rituals safely in certain areas of North America. They fear persecution and attacks by Christians who misunderstand their gentle, earth-based faith. These include Wiccans, Druids, and other Neo-Pagans.

Religious Intolerance in the Rest of the World.

In spite of UN declarations on religious freedom, there is still much room for improvement in some countries. Wars: Religious intolerance is a driving force behind many of the world's armed conflicts and centers of civil unrest: Protestants vs. Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland. Serbian Orthodox vs. Roman, Catholics vs. Muslims. In the former Yugoslavia Jews, Muslims and Christians in the Middle East Sikhs, Hindus, Aboriginal and Muslims in the Far East Muslims and Christians in East Timor, occupied by Indonesia Muslims and Christians in southern Philippines, Missionaries: religious missionaries are severely persecuted in some areas of the world. Most victims are Christians; most perpetrators are governments. Conversion: Some countries have declared that a religious conversion from the state religion to another belief system is a criminal act, sometimes punishable by death. These laws are frequently found in Muslim countries.

A Voice From GLCCE



By Fred Dicker

It is a new year; a time when everyone makes New Year's Resolutions. Everyone at the Centre is looking ahead to a good year without any Resolutions, but continuing with everything we have done in the past.

Our most recent peer-counselling course is now graduating to help staff our peer counselling program. Our library, which has been undergoing reorganization for many months, is now complete. In 1998, we will be able to offer better service with our free, confidential peer counselling which anyone can access either by phone or dropping into the Centre. If you drop-in, our library and informational services are now better organized for your use.

The Centre will be co-operating again with the Gay Men's Outreach Crew of the AIDS Network to offer free educational and support workshops. "Coming Out in the '90's" is starting January 28 for six weeks. "Being Gay in the '90's" is starting March 18 for 8 weeks.

"Talking Together" is continuing every Sunday evening from 7 to 9 PM on a drop in when you can basis. There is also a drop in coffee group every Wednesday evening, at the Breadstick Cafe on Whyte Avenue. For women, they're "Coming Out in the '90's" workshop starts February 11 for 8 weeks. There is now also a drop in coffee group for women on Wednesday evenings at Jazzberry's

An organization called "Youthquest", who now have 7 operating drop-in youth groups with 4 more soon to start in British Columbia, are enjoying considerable success. In January, their general co-ordinator, Rhamona vos Browning, spent several days in Edmonton meeting with many people involved in our new "Youth Group". We now have a lot of new understanding about what makes a youth group work to provide the services and social support that the youth in our community want and need.

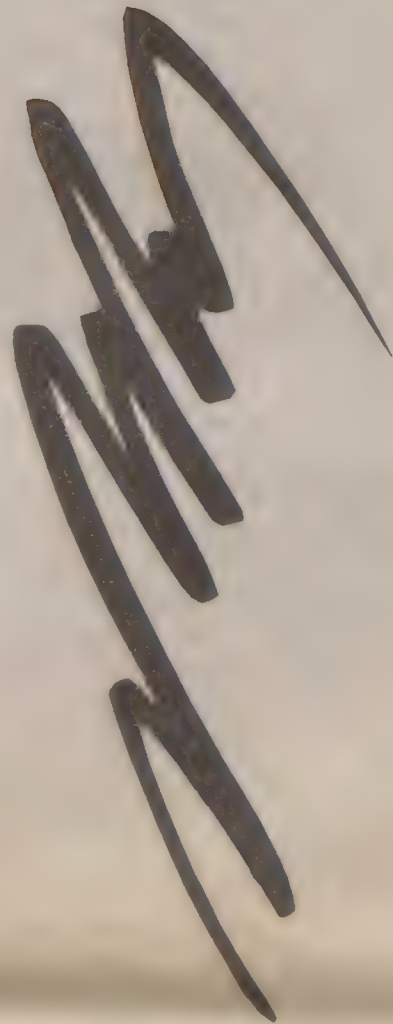
The Lesbian and Gay Immigration Task Force (LEGIT) from Vancouver were at the Centre for a day long seminar on January 10.

We now have a knowledgeable local contact for anyone who find themselves dealing with the difficulties of a same sex relationship where one person is a Canadian and the other person is not a landed immigrant in Canada.

We are busy and things are happening at the Centre. Do become a member or renew your membership to help the Centre. We need more volunteers to spread the work load. Please contact us if you used to

peer counsel in the past and would like to return. A very important way to help us is to participate in our Centre Renter program, for those people who believe in the Centre but do not have the time but can donate a lump sum or on a monthly basis to help pay the rent. This will allow volunteers time and energy to be devoted to our programs instead of fund raising.

The Centre is open for drop-in and phone service from 7 PM to 10 PM, Monday through Friday. Telephone 488-3234, all messages returned. Email- gleece@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca Web page -www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/glcce/



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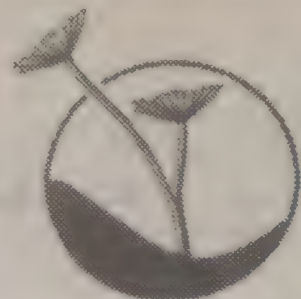
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Critiquing Proposals

By Robert J. Toft

When I first started critiquing project proposals for others, I would grab my pencil and start picking away as I read each sentence. I would put question marks here and there and make cryptic comments in the margin about lack of coherence. I often got so involved in my editing that I ended up with a very fuzzy idea of what was being proposed.

That was a very poor method for at least two reasons. First, I was not giving the writer a chance to show me the whole picture. Secondly, I was failing to follow the writer's reasoning as he or she developed the picture.

There are three basic parts to writing a proposal: fact finding; laying out the plan for the proposal; and editing the document. Most of us get in trouble with our writing because we concentrate on the final editing before we have finished the fact finding or layout.

By picking up my pencil at the start of my critique, I was guilty of making the same mistake.

I must follow a three-step process, which is analogous to that followed, hopefully, in the

preparation of the proposal.

First, I take in the entire project. To do so, I sit in a comfortable chair and read the draft from start to finish. It usually takes only a few minutes. Then, I sit for a couple of minutes and think about the idea that has been presented. I try to see the big picture.

Next, I concentrate on the impact of the proposal on my thinking. Did I like the idea? Was it appealing? Would I fund it if I were a granting agency? To aid my thinking, I jot down notes about the things I remember which support that idea. If my reaction is negative, I put down the things, which are bothersome for me. I try to do this without going back to the proposal. Sometimes I cheat, however, and peek back to pick up a point or two.



Basically, I am relying on my quick reading and first impressions to tell me about the project. A panel reviewer or project officer will give the proposal a quick reading also, and may form his or her judgement at that time.

Usually a positive impression leads to more careful attention and to the involvement of others in the review process. An initial negative impression may lead the program officer to put it in the reject pile, sometimes going back later to find

arguments that support the negative impressions.

Since my purpose in studying the document is to improve its fundability, I then begin the third process which is a rereading, focusing on ideas, big and small, and on the logic of the presentation. Now I make marginal notes and circle key phrases that are either positive or negative. If I see egregious grammatical errors, I correct them. I seldom correct typographical errors, but I usually circle them.

The common impression created by a draft proposal is one of rambling on the part of the writer. Often, there is not a logical (to me) progression of ideas that leads one to the conclusion that the project should be funded. I must guard against thinking that this presentation truly represents the project. I must not judge the project as being incomplete and illogical just because the proposal doesn't conform to my standards of form and logic.

I must remember that the writer has lived with the project idea for a long time and that he or she knows all its facets rather intimately. It is because of this complete knowledge that things are left out of the proposal. It is my job to ask about those missing elements and to include them so that the document, when presented to a funding agency, will have the necessary explanations.

My skills as a sleuth and propagandist (meaning persuasive proposal writer) must be used to bring forth missing elements and to arrange the whole in a form which best tells the story of the proposed project. If I am successful, then the project director will have the funds necessary to carry out the work, and I will have the satisfaction of knowing that I helped by sorting out the ideas for making an effective presentation.

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HIV Infection and AIDS

From the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

AIDS—acquired immune deficiency syndrome—was first reported in the United States in 1981 and has since become a major worldwide epidemic. AIDS is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). By killing or impairing cells of the immune system, HIV progressively destroys the body's ability to fight infections and certain cancers. Individuals diagnosed with AIDS are susceptible to life-threatening diseases called opportunistic infections, which are caused by microbes that usually do not cause illness in healthy people.

HIV is spread most commonly by sexual contact with an infected partner. The virus can enter the body through the lining of the vagina, vulva, penis, rectum or mouth during sex. HIV also is spread through contact with infected blood. Prior to the screening of blood for evidence of HIV infection and before the introduction in 1985 of heat-treating techniques to destroy HIV in blood products, HIV was transmitted through transfusions of contaminated blood or blood components. Today, the risk of acquiring HIV from such transfusions is extremely small. HIV frequently is spread among injection drug users by the sharing of needles or syringes contaminated with minute quantities of blood of someone infected with the virus. However, transmission from patient to health-care worker or vice-versa via accidental sticks with contaminated needles or other medical instruments is rare.

Women can transmit HIV to their fetuses during pregnancy or birth. Approximately one-quarter to one-third of all untreated pregnant women infected with HIV will pass the infection to their babies. HIV also can be spread to babies through the breast milk of mothers infected with the virus. If the drug AZT is taken during pregnancy, the chance of transmitting HIV to the baby is reduced significantly.

Although researchers have detected HIV in the saliva of infected individuals, no evidence exists that the virus is spread by contact with saliva. Laboratory studies reveal that saliva has natural compounds that inhibit the infectiousness of HIV. Studies of people infected with HIV have found no evidence that the virus is spread to others through saliva such as by kissing. However, the risk of infection from so-called "deep" kissing, involving the exchange of large amounts of saliva, is unknown. Scientists also have found no evidence that HIV is spread through sweat, tears, urine or feces.

Studies of families of HIV-infected people have shown clearly that HIV is not spread through casual contact such as the sharing of food utensils, towels and bedding, swimming pools, telephones or toilet seats. HIV is not spread by biting insects such as mosquitoes or bedbugs.

HIV can infect anyone who practices risky behaviors such as:

- sharing drug needles or syringes;
- having unprotected sexual contact with an infected person or with someone whose HIV status is unknown.

Having another sexually transmitted disease such as syphilis, herpes, Chlamydia or gonorrhea appears to make someone more susceptible to acquiring HIV infection during sex with an infected partner.

Early Symptoms

Many people do not develop any symptoms when they first become infected with HIV. Some people, however, have a flu-like illness within a month or two after exposure to the virus. They may have fever, headache, malaise and enlarged lymph nodes (organs of the immune system easily felt in the neck and groin). These symptoms usually disappear within a week to a month and are often mistaken for those of another viral infection.

More persistent or severe symptoms may not surface for a decade or more after HIV first enters the body in adults, and within two years in children born with HIV infection. This period of "asymptomatic" infection is highly variable. Some people may begin to have symptoms in as soon as a few months, whereas others may be symptom-free for more than 10 years. During the asymptomatic period, however,

HIV is actively infecting and killing cells of the immune system. HIV's effect is seen most obviously in a decline in the blood levels of CD4+ T cells (also called T4 cells)—the immune system's key infection fighters. The virus initially disables or destroys these cells without causing symptoms.

As the immune system deteriorates, a variety of complications begins to surface. One of the first such symptoms experienced by many people infected with HIV is lymph nodes that remain enlarged for more than three months. Other symptoms often experienced months to years before the onset of AIDS include a lack of energy, weight loss, frequent fevers and sweats, persistent or frequent yeast infections (oral or vaginal), persistent skin rashes or flaky skin, pelvic inflammatory disease that does not respond to treatment or short-term memory loss. Some people develop frequent and severe herpes infections that cause mouth, genital or anal sores, or a painful nerve disease known as shingles. Children may have delayed development or failure to thrive.

AIDS

In 1993, CDC revised its definition of AIDS to include all HIV-infected people who have fewer than 200 CD4+ T cells. (Healthy adults usually have CD4+ T-cell counts of 1,000 or more.) In addition, the definition includes 26 clinical conditions that affect people with advanced HIV disease. Most AIDS-defining conditions are opportunistic infections, which rarely cause harm in healthy individuals. In people with AIDS, however, these infections are often severe and sometimes fatal because the immune system is so ravaged by HIV that the body cannot fight off certain bacteria, viruses and other microbes.

Opportunistic infections common in people with AIDS cause such symptoms as coughing, shortness of breath, seizures, dementia, severe and persistent diarrhea, fever, vision loss, severe headaches, wasting, extreme fatigue, nausea, vomiting, lack of coordination, coma, abdominal cramps, or difficult or painful swallowing.

Although children with AIDS are susceptible to the same opportunistic infections as adults with the disease, they also experience severe forms of the bacterial infections to which children are especially prone, such as conjunctivitis (pink eye), ear infections and tonsillitis. People with AIDS are particularly prone to developing various cancers such as Kaposi's sarcoma or cancers of the immune system known as lymphomas. These cancers are usually more aggressive and difficult to treat in people with AIDS. Hallmarks of Kaposi's sarcoma in light-skinned people are round brown, reddish or purple spots that develop in the skin or in the mouth. In dark-skinned people, the spots are more pigmented. During the course of HIV infection, most people experience a gradual decline in the number of CD4+ T cells, although some individuals may have abrupt and dramatic drops in their CD4+ T-cell counts. A person with CD4+ T cells above 200 may experience some of the early symptoms of HIV disease. Others may have no symptoms even though their CD4+ T-cell count is below 200.

Many people are so debilitated by the symptoms of AIDS that they are unable to hold steady employment or do household chores. Other people with AIDS may experience phases of intense life-threatening illness followed by phases of normal functioning. A small number of people initially infected with HIV 10 or more years ago have not developed symptoms of AIDS. Scientists are trying to determine what factors may account for their lack of progression to AIDS, such as particular characteristics of their immune systems or whether they were infected with a less aggressive strain of the virus or if their genetic make-up may protect them from the effects of HIV.

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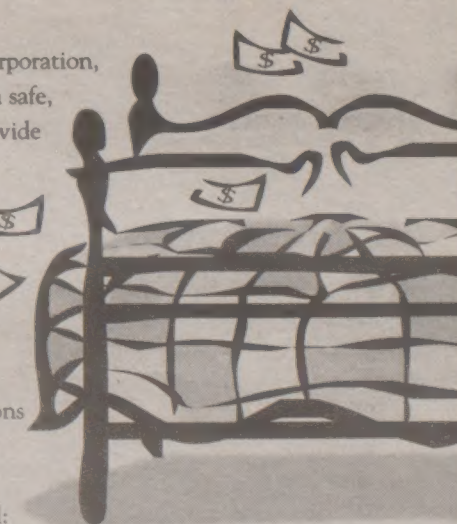
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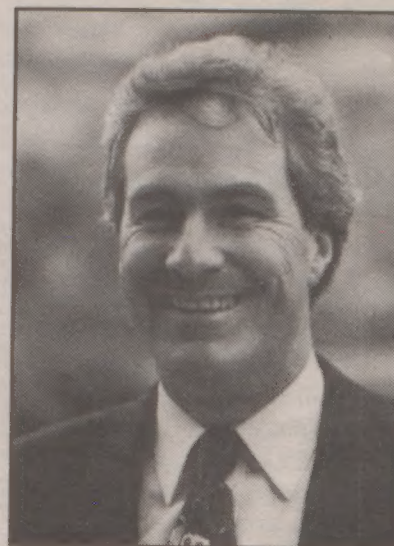
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**Human
Rights
Conference
to come to
Edmonton**

By Lance White

**Liberal MLA
Edmonton Calder**

I am pleased to see that Alberta will be hosting a human rights conference in November of this year. The two-day Edmonton conference, marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, will see 400 delegates visit our city including the new UN Commissioner of Human Rights and former President of Ireland Mary Robinson, and Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy.

While this is an exciting opportunity to showcase our city, I can't help but notice the irony of an international human rights conference hosted by one of the only provinces in Canada that does not offer something as basic as equal rights for all Albertans, or the guarantee of a minimum level of rights and protection for children.

Alberta does not prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in its Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act. What this means is that a landlord can evict a tenant and an employer can fire an employee simply because he or she happens to be gay.

Certainly the Delwin Vriend Supreme Court case has brought much-needed attention to this serious issue, but how sad that an Albertan must spend thousands of dollars and invest countless hours to fight for something as simple as the right to live a life free of government-endorsed bigotry.

I hope that by the time you are reading this article, the Supreme Court has decided in favour of Delwin Vriend. I also hope that the Conservative government does not show the entire world how bigoted they are by attempting to invoke the little used notwithstanding clause to overturn the Supreme Court decision.

It is also ironic that while Alberta is hosting this international human rights conference, the Conservative government has refused to sign the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Every other Canadian province and almost every country around the world have signed this commitment by government to children.

In a round table report by 15 Alberta agencies providing services to children (*the Status of Alberta's Children 1995*), Alberta was given bad marks for "treatment of poor kids, children with disabilities, those who have single parents, are native, whose first language is not English, as well as lesbian, gay or bisexual children."

Currently my colleague Gary Dickson, as Alberta Liberal Human Rights Critic, is writing to over 400 Alberta municipalities asking them to follow Red Deer City Council's lead in passing resolutions urging the government to recognize and ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Alberta Liberal Caucus believes in equal rights for all Albertans. You, as an Albertan, must keep the pressure on the government to do the right thing and ensure all Albertans are treated equally. Do this by writing, phoning, faxing and e-mailing your MLA or the Premier. The Premier's phone number is 427 2251.

If you would like to meet with me or provide feedback to me, please call my constituency office at 451 2345 or drop by. We are located at 15604 116 Ave. My fax number is 451 2334. I look forward to hearing from you.

Cayman Islands Leaves 900 Gay Cruisers Out at Sea

If you are thinking of traveling to the Cayman Islands, beware.

In a surprising move, the Cayman Islands this week denied port access to a Norwegian Cruise Line ship booked by 900 gay travelers. The ship was to have docked seven hours there as part of a weeklong Caribbean cruise. I asked Richard Campbell, president of Atlantis Events, the company that arranged the trip, on what grounds Cayman officials made their decision.

"They said they cannot count on this group to uphold the standards of appropriate behavior expected of visitors to the Cayman Islands."

What do you think that really means?

"I think it really means gay people are not welcome there. I mean, this is the most blatant type of out-of-date, backwater discrimination you can possibly imagine."

Cayman tourist authorities declined to comment, but Campbell says he'll do all he can to launch a boycott of the Caribbean island.

"I think no gay person, after hearing this, will ever consider going to the Cayman Islands, and I don't think the Cayman Islands understand the number of gay travel professionals out there who will turn their clients away from a place like this that is so openly hostile."

Source : The Savvy Traveler <http://www.savtrav.org/DIRthisWeek.ssi> under Travel

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